Wednesday, June 24, 2026 No 174 ₹7

DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

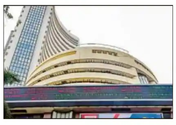
All-rounder Suryansh replaces Nitish for UK tour

Page 15

Quickly

11 India-bound ships cross Hormuz strait

Eleven India-bound ships have transited through the Strait of Hormuz after the US and Iran finalised an MoU to end the West Asia conflict. New Delhi said it is monitoring the developments in West Asia and that its energy sourcing is guided by national interest.



Sensex, Nifty crash; IT shares major drag

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty declined more than 1% on Tuesday following FII outflows and heavy selling in IT and metal shares, mirroring losses in global stocks. BSE Sensex dropped by 893.39 points, or 1.16%. NSE Nifty dropped 278.80 points.
Details on Page 14

Metro snag triggers rush-hour chaos

Harrowing time for commuters; Indiranagar-Majestic ops still not restored

BENGALURU, DHNS

In one of the biggest disruptions in Namma Metro's history, Purple Line train services through the CBD were suspended for several hours on Tuesday evening, leaving thousands of commuters stranded as they tried to make their way home.

The disruption was triggered by an apparent electrical fault as the train pulled into the Cubbon Park station around 6.30 pm.

"The electrified third rail that supplies power to the train has been damaged. We are in the process of rectifying the issue. An investigation will determine what caused it," Alok Sahay, director (Operations and Maintenance) at Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL), told *DH*.

The third rail operates at 750 V and is covered by a yellow fibreglass protective shroud, he added.

In a post on X, a commuter reported a loud noise in the last coach as the train entered the Cubbon Park tunnel. The passenger said the train's HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) system shut down as it picked up speed and that occasional jerks were felt.

BMRCL chief public relations officer B L Yashavanth Chavan said the noise may have been caused by contact between the Current Collector Device (CCD) and a third-rail component.

The CCD, mounted under a metro train, makes sliding contact with the third rail to draw electrical power for the train.

After the train came to a halt at the Cubbon Park station, BMRCL suspended services between MG Road and Magadi Road, affecting six stations, including the Majestic interchange.

The disruption hit commuters particularly hard because Challaghatta-bound services are typically packed during the evening rush hour.

As a temporary measure, BMRCL ran short-loop trips between MG Road and Whitefield and between Magadi Road and Challaghatta. Chavan said the Magadi Road station was chosen because it had turnouts to allow trains to reverse direction on either side.

Manjunath, who was travelling from Whitefield to Kengeri, said Majestic-bound passengers were asked to deboard at MG Road.

▸ Metro snag, Page 7

Commuters stranded outside the MG Road metro station after services were suspended towards Majestic. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Commuter nightmare

The disruption in Purple Line metro train services on Tuesday evening left thousands of commuters stranded and frustrated, exposing chinks in Bengaluru's public transport.
Details on Page 2

Daughter, live-in partner kill her parents, sister; flee

The victims (from left) Somasundar, Muthulakshmi and Supriya

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a gruesome triple murder reported from K R Puram, a 25-year-old woman and her live-in partner allegedly murdered the former's parents and younger sister as they opposed their relationship.

The incident took place early on Monday evening. Police have launched a manhunt and formed special teams to trace the suspects.

The victims have been identified as Somasundar (52), a software engineer employed with a reputed IT firm, his wife Muthulakshmi (48) and their younger daughter Supriya (19), a student. The family hail from Tamil Nadu and have been living in Whitefield for a couple of years.

The suspect, Shwetha and her boyfriend Kenneth (26), both employees of a private company, are absconding.

According to the police, the incident came to light around 8.45 pm on Monday when Somasundar, with multiple stab injuries, reportedly ran out of the flat seeking help.

Hearing his cries, the apartment security guard Beer Bahadur alerted the police.

K R Puram assistant sub-inspector Mullar Hasan Sab rushed to the spot and shifted Somasundar to a hospital.

▸ Murder, Page 7
More reports, Page 3B

Students kill PG owner

Two college students in their early 20s have been arrested for murdering a paying-guest facility owner following a trivial altercation in eastern Bengaluru.
Page 3B

Pune man, who fell off fort, was pushed by fiancee, lover

MUMBAI, DHNS

Days after a Pune-based youth, engaged in a family real estate business, was believed to have died from an "accidental fall" from the Lohagad Fort near Pune, the police made a dramatic breakthrough with the arrest of his fiancee and her lover, who had pushed him from the top.

The victim was identified as Ketan Vishal Agarwal (25), a resident of Gahunje in Maval taluk of Pune district.

The accused were identified as Siya Goyal (20), a resident of Bibwewadi in Market Yard in Pune and her lover Chetan Chaudhary (22), a resident of Kondhwa in Pune.

Ketan and Siya were engaged and were to get married around November.

Both families are prominent Pune residents.

Pune rural superintendent of police Sandeep Singh Gill, who personally led the team of investigators, confirmed the arrests on Tuesday.

According to him, the incident took place on June 18.

Accused Siya Goyal is escorted by the police in Pune on Tuesday. PTI

The Lonavla rural police initially registered an accidental death report.

They have now converted into a first information report, booking the duo for murder.

On the day of the incident, Siya informed authorities that Ketan had slipped from the hill top fort while taking photographs and had fallen into a deep gorge, resulting in his death.

Besides, it also came to light that Siya had planned to kill him earlier but had failed in the attempt.

Hence, during the second attempt, she took the help of her boyfriend.

▸ Pune murder, Page 7

KANNADA TEXT

'Mythology-heavy' NCERT book under fire

BENGALURU, DHNS

Academicians in the state have raised objections to NCERT's Class 6 Kannada textbook (R3) titled Krishna, which they say pushes mythology, religious tales, vegetarianism and God-centric narratives.

Besides objecting to the name of the textbook, academics say folklore, literature and life of coastal Karnataka, north Karnataka, Malnad and Old Mysuru regions are missing in the textbooks introduced for Class 6 and above in the schools affiliated to Central Board for Secondary Education (CBSE) from this academic year.

Academicians' grouse

- Pushes mythology, religious tales, God-centric narratives
- Lessons on Karnataka's cultural and social diversity missing
- Deliberate strategy to sideline non-vegetarian food

A lesson on satvik food in the text book.

R3 is a Third Language mandatory subject introduced from Class 6. It is intended to be a foundational exposure language rather than one requiring advanced mastery and an introductory language studied for basic comprehension and cultural exposure.

In a statement, People's Alliance for Fundamental Right to Education (PAFRE) alleged cultural imposition through NCERT Kannada (R3) textbooks and strongly objected to it. "NCERT 6th Standard 'R3' Kannada textbook is shocking. Books meant for children's learning are being turned into weapons of political and cultural imposition, which is dangerous," the organisation stated.

▸ 'Mythology-heavy', Page 7

Kurian resigns as MoS; move hints at Cabinet rejig

President Murmu accepts resignation; more exits expected soon

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

President Droupadi Murmu during a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi, on Tuesday. PTI

Union Minister George Kurian, the Modi Cabinet's lone Christian minister, on Tuesday tendered his resignation from the Union Council of Ministers following the completion of his Rajya Sabha tenure. President Droupadi Murmu formally accepted his resignation.

"The President of India, as advised by the Prime Minister, has accepted the resignation of Shri George Kurian from the Union Council of Ministers, with immediate effect, under clause (2) of Article 75 of the Constitution," Rashtrapati Bhavan said in a statement on Tuesday.

The move is widely seen as a precursor to a long-expected reshuffle in the Cabinet. Union minister Ravneet Singh Bittu's tenure, too, came to an end this week, and he has not been given a nomination to the Upper House.

There is speculation that he will be sent to Punjab for the Assembly elections while BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh will take over as Cabinet minister in his stead.

Likely next week

Another senior face whose term is ending later this year is Hardeep Puri. There is speculation that some more resignations could come along in the next few days, and sources in BJP said the reshuffle could happen as soon as this week.

Kurian, who served as Union minister of state for Minority Affairs and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy, contested the recently concluded Assembly elections in Kerala from the Kanjirappally seat but did not win. He was appointed Union minister in 2024.

"I got the opportunity to meet the Prime Minister and I submitted the resignation yesterday itself. Becoming a Union Minister was something I had never imagined, even in my dreams. Prime Minister Narendra Modi chose me to become a minister, and I conveyed my gratitude to him. Today, I was informed that the President has accepted my resignation," he wrote in his resignation letter.

Doval tells China to respect core concerns in talks with Wang Yi

NEW DELHI, PTI: With India and China looking at repairing their ties, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval conveyed to Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi the need for showing sensitivity to each other's issues of "core concern".

Doval held talks with Wang in New Delhi on Monday on the sidelines of a conclave of security officials of the BRICS nations.

NSA Doval underlined that "stable, predictable and constructive bilateral relations will contribute to enhanced trust and deeper understanding between the two sides", MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Tuesday.

"The NSA also emphasised the importance of sensitivity being consistently displayed to each other's issues of core concern," he said.

Jaiswal, however, didn't elaborate on the core issues.

He added that this would be in keeping with our overall approach of mutual sensitivity, mutual interests and mutual respect.

In the meeting, the two sides reviewed the overall situation along theLine of Actual Control (LAC).

The meeting came amid efforts by the two sides to rebuild the ties that came under severe strain following the over four-year military standoff in eastern Ladakh.

'Fabricated claims': India rejects Pakistan's J&K remarks

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Tuesday trashed Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif's remarks on Jammu and Kashmir, calling them Islamabad's desperate attempts to cover up its "own failings".

Khawaja had criticised India for its suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty as well as for the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have seen some reports on the matter. Such remarks are desperate attempts by Pakistan to cover-up its own failings and deflect attention away from its human rights abuses," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"We categorically reject these fabricated claims with the contempt they deserve."

"The ongoing protests in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) are a direct consequence of Pakistan's decades-long policy of systemic economic exploitation, denial of fundamental rights, and administrative oppression in areas under its illegal and forcible occupation," Jaiswal said.

He said the Pakistani state has responded to the protests with extreme brutality, blocking of essential supplies and medicines, internet blackouts, and use of lethal force against unarmed civilians.

"We hope the international community will hold Pakistan accountable for its misdeeds and abuses," he said.

PADMA HONOURS

President Droupadi Murmu confers the Padma Bhushan on Budhri Tati (left) and veteran actor Mammootty during the second civil investiture ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

11 India-bound ships cross Hormuz after US-Iran deal: MEA

NEW DELHI, PTI: Eleven India-bound ships have transited through the Strait of Hormuz after the US and Iran finalised a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to end the West Asia conflict, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Tuesday.

With the US withdrawing sanctions on Iranian petroleum products as part of the peace deal, New Delhi said it is monitoring the developments in West Asia and that its energy sourcing is guided by national interest. "As of today, we have 10 Indian-flagged vessels still in the Persian Gulf region. In addition, two have recently arrived there," MEA spokesman Randhir Jaiswal said at a media briefing.

"Since the signing of the MoU on June 17, 11 India bound vessels have transited through the Strait of Hormuz," he said.

The vessels include three Indian-flagged crude oil tankers, each carrying over 285,000 MT (Metric Tonnes) of crude oil; one foreign-flagged LPG carrier, one foreign-flagged crude oil tanker and six foreign-flagged bulk carriers , carrying fertilisers, he said.

"We hope that the remaining India flagged vessels would also be able to cross the Hormuz soon," Jaiswal added.

West Asia has been a major source of India's energy procurement.

To a question on US removing sanctions on Iranian crude oil, Jaiswal said: "We are closely monitoring all developments related to West Asia. As far as our energy sourcing is concerned, you are well aware that our policy is guided by national interest."

"Our priority is to ensure that 1.4 billion people have access to energy at affordable prices and from diverse sources. This has consistently been our policy," he said.

To a separate question, Jaiswal said India has maintained good relations with Palestine for decades. Under our development partnership framework, we have extended several development projects to Palestine, he said. These projects have been delivered both through bilateral channels and through United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), he added.

MARKET SHOCK

Lower prices, higher costs hit Andhra aqua farmers

SNV SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Lakhs of aqua farmers in Andhra Pradesh — the state long regarded as the cradle of shrimp farming in India — are caught in a deepening crisis.

A punishing combination of depressed market prices, triggered by the West Asia conflict, and surging feed costs has pushed many to the brink.

Some have already declared "crop holidays", while others are actively considering converting their shrimp farms back into paddy fields.

The shrimp-farming boom that reshaped coastal Andhra Pradesh in the mid-to-late 1990s transformed the economic lives of farmers across the Godavari, Guntur, Krishna, and Nellore districts, who converted lakhs of acres of paddy land into far more lucrative aquaculture operations.

Today, that transformation — which created an industry on which 10 lakh families rely directly and indirectly — is being reversed as the numbers start to tell a stark story.

Rising pond lease rates, feed prices, and electricity charges have pushed production costs of 100-count shrimp to Rs 270-290 per kg, 50-count to Rs 340-350 per kg, and 30-count to over Rs 450 per kg.

Yet, market prices have moved sharply in the opposite direction. A kilogram of 100-count shrimp that once fetched Rs 275 now sells for just Rs 225, 50-count has dropped to Rs 285, and 30-count to Rs 425 — wiping out margins.

Shrimp are graded by count per kg. Fewer shrimp per kg means bigger size, which fetch higher prices and are believed to taste better.

Vegesna Gopala Krishnam Raju, a shrimp farmer from the Lankalakoderu village in West Godavari who has been in the sector since 1998, recently declared a crop holiday on his six-acre farm and formally wrote to the local tahsildar informing him of his decision.

"I have never seen such a crisis in all my years of farming," he told *DH*. "Buyers and feed companies have become cartels, dictating prices and rendering us helpless. Earlier, we received government subsidies on generators and aerators. Now, without support, it is impossible to sustain."

The input cost burden is equally daunting. Producing one tonne of Vanami shrimp requires an investment of Rs 2.6 lakh, while Tiger shrimp costs Rs 3.5 lakh per tonne.

According to shrimp farmers with whom *DH* interacted, feed alone accounts for Rs 1.5 lakh of that outlay, and its price has nearly doubled from Rs 72,000 per tonne in 2023 to Rs 1.08 lakh today.

Total expenditure per acre currently runs to Rs 3.5-4.5 lakh, with no assurance of recovering even the investment.

"We have no choice. With such feed prices and such low market returns, we are forced to announce a crop holiday," a farmer from Amalapuram told *DH*.

DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

AI era needs fresh learning, new mental models: Nilekani

Page 14

Centre sounds kharif alarm amid 42% rain deficit

IMD says weak monsoon likely to continue till July 2

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre on Tuesday warned of a severe threat to kharif sowing as a 42% monsoon deficit, driven by El Niño, leaves 111 districts highly vulnerable to crop damage.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who chaired a high-level review meeting, told reporters that weak monsoon conditions are likely to persist until July 2, leaving farmers with limited time to complete sowing of summer crops.

"Overall, there is a 42% deficit in monsoon rains. IMD forecasts that the weak monsoon is likely to continue till July 2. This could directly affect kharif crops, particularly in rainfed regions," Chouhan said.

As of June 22, kharif sowing had covered just 11.99 million hectares, marginally higher than the 11.79 million hectares recorded during the corresponding period last year.

The government has mapped 315 districts across Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Bihar, Jharkhand, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha as likely to receive below-normal rainfall.

▸ Crops, Page 7

Contingency plans

- Crop diversification, inter-cropping, and mixed farming to mitigate risks
- Farmers told to sow pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals, and short-duration, climate-resilient crop varieties
- Krishi Vigyan Kendras directed to intensify outreach through SMS, WhatsApp and other channels

El Niño Monitoring Cell and a Crop Weather Watch Group set up for real-time tracking

A farmer sowing paddy in Punjab's Tarn Taran district. PTI

Monsoon arrives in Mumbai

India is staring at one of the driest Junes in recent years, with rain deficiency touching 42% on Tuesday, even as the southwest monsoon finally reached Mumbai nearly two weeks behind schedule. Page 10

Union govt tightens foreign fund rules for NGOs

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union government has amended the rules for receiving and utilising foreign funds by NGOs.

According to the new rules, funds for NGOs and other institutions will now be restricted to 105 religious, cultural, economic, educational, and social activities, barring anything related to religious conversions.

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules 2026 also made it clear that any organisation having foreign nationals, other than those of Indian origin, as its key functionaries will "ordinarily not be considered" for the grant of registration or prior permission to receive foreign funds, though the Centre can allow an exception in specific cases. Under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, every association seeking foreign funds requires registration or permission from the MHA. The NGOs seeking a licence should specify the purpose and the state or UT where the funds would be utilised.

▸ Foreign funds, Page 7

Permitted activities

- **Religious:** Establishment of religious libraries, museums, faith-based counselling centres, de-addiction centres and social care programmes
- **Economic:** Job placement services, employment exchanges and market linkages for trained youth
- **Educational:** Scholarships, fellowships, stipends, and financial aid for students
- **Social:** Construction of toilets, hygiene awareness, menstrual health initiatives, Orphanages and foster care
- **Cultural:** Archiving and digitisation of films, radio programmes, theatre scripts and photographs, support to writers, poets, translators and organisation of book fairs

SIT highlights 'mishandling' of Ram Temple donations

Sources say interim report recommends FIRs against accused

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The SIT submits its preliminary inquiry report in Lucknow on Tuesday. PTI

The special investigation team (SIT) probing the alleged misappropriation of donations and valuables received at the Ayodhya Ram temple submitted its preliminary report to the Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday.

The 150-page report was submitted to the Additional Chief Secretary (Home), Sanjay Prasad.

"It will be placed before the chief minister for necessary action," said an official.

Though the contents of the report was not made public, according to sources, it contained details of the process for appointing employees, the collection and counting of cash offerings, and the supervision system.

Sources said that the interim report had found some Ram Temple Trust officer bearers guilty of laxity. It is also believed to have raised questions on the appointment of relatives of some office bearers.

Sources added that the interim report had recommended filing an FIR against around two dozen people. It has also recommended reconstituting the Trust and appointment of a CEO on the lines of the Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi.

The report has also suggested a weekly audit of the cash offerings and daily entry of the same in the register.

The SIT was formed on June 13 after allegations of 'embezzlement' of crores of rupees in offerings at the Ram Temple. Around Rs 2 crore was later recovered from the residences of some employees. Meanwhile, according to the reports, as many as 40 employees, who were earlier engaged in counting cash offerings, have been entrusted with other tasks.

The members of the SIT are likely to submit the final report with recommendations in a week, sources said.

NBW against Prakash Raj

A Bengaluru court has re-issued a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against actor Prakash Raj in a case related to allegations of possessing multiple voter ID cards. A complaint was filed by an advocate alleging that the actor held voter ID cards in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. The matter has been posted to July 25 for further hearing.

ED raids Rajesh Exports in B'luru, Mumbai

BENGALURU/NEW DELHI, DHNS & PTI,: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday launched simultaneous searches against Rajesh Exports, a multinational gold retailer, headquartered in Bengaluru, which is currently facing intense scrutiny by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

Sources from the agency's New Delhi Zone said that nine areas in Bengaluru and Mumbai in Maharashtra are being covered in the searches.

The searches also included premises belonging to the firm's promoters.

"The searches at the company are being executed under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)," the sources said.

Repeated calls made to Rajesh Mehta seeking comment went unanswered till the time of publication.

Sources further said that the ED is also examining suspected benami transactions linked to REL shares.

Details from the search operations are awaited, while sources said that documents and other digital evidence were being examined by the investigators.

The ED is yet to release an official statement as raids were still on.

The ED is probing possible contraventions of the foreign exchange law FEMA, including allegations of multiple transactions of REL shares by benamidars (a person or entity in whose name a benami asset is transferred).

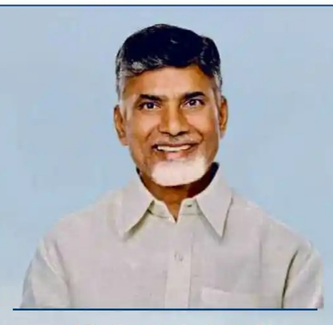
ED officials alleged that more than $20 million was siphoned out of the country and that there was a 40% "mismatch" in gold stock inventory of the company.

▸ ED raid, Page 7

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Sri C. R. Patil
Hon'ble Union Minister for Jal Shakti
Government of India

Sri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka



Sri N. Chandrababu Naidu
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Andhra Pradesh

Sri A. Revanth Reddy
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Telangana

Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Sri Ramalinga Reddy
Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources
Government of Karnataka

TUNGABHADRA BOARD

Department of Water Resources

Inauguration Program

of the newly installed 33 Spillway Gates of Tungabhadra Dam
by Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri D. K. Shivakumar

on June 25, 2026, Thursday, at 11 am
Venue: Government High School Ground, Munirabad,
Taluk and District : Koppal

In Presence of

Sri C. R. Patil
Hon'ble Union Minister for Jal Shakti
Government of India

Sri N. Chandrababu Naidu
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Andhra Pradesh

Sri A. Revanth Reddy
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Telangana

Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Sri K. Pavan Kalyan
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Andhra Pradesh

Sri Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Telangana

Sri V. Somanna
Hon'ble Union Minister of State
for Jal Shakti and Railways,
Government of India

Sri Raj Bhushan Chaudhary
Hon'ble Minister of State
for Jal Shakti
Government of India

Sri Basavaraja S. Horatti
Hon'ble Chairman,
Karnataka Legislative Assembly,
Bangalore

Sri Ramalinga Reddy
Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources
Government of Karnataka

Sri Basavaraja Bommai
Former Chief Minister,
Government of Karnataka &
MP, Haveri-Gadag Lok Sabha Constituency

Dr. Nimmala Rama Naidu
Hon'ble Minister for
Water Resources Department
Government of Andhra Pradesh

Sri Payyavula Keshav
Hon'ble Minister, Finance, Planning,
Commercial Taxes & Legislative Affairs,
Government of Andhra Pradesh

Sri N. Uttam Kumar Reddy
Hon'ble Minister, Irrigation Department
& CAD, Government of Telangana

Sri Saleem Ahmed
Hon'ble Chief Whip,
Karnataka Legislative Council
and MLC

Chief Guests

Sri K. Rajashekar Hitnal
Hon'ble MP
Koppal Lok Sabha
Constituency

Sri P. C. Gaddigoudar
Hon'ble MP
Bagalkot Lok Sabha
Constituency

Sri E. Tukaram
Hon'ble MP
Bellary Lok Sabha
Constituency

Dr. Prabha Mallikarjun
Hon'ble MP
Davanagere Lok Sabha
Constituency

Sri G. Kumar Naik
Hon'ble MP
Raichur Lok Sabha
Constituency

Dr. Syed Naseer Hussain
Hon'ble Rajya Sabha Member
Bellary

And all elected representatives of Koppal, Vijayanagara, Bellary, Raichur and Gadag Districts.

Presided by

Sri K. Raghavendra Hitnal
Hon'ble MLA,
Koppal Assembly Constituency

All are welcome

Sri Gaurav Gupta, IAS
Addl. Chief Secretary,
Energy and Water Resources Department

Sri Rajesh Amminabhavi, KES
Managing Director, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited

Sri Krishnamurthy B. Kulkarni, KES
Secretary,
Water Resources Department

Sri S. N. Pande, IES
Chairman, Tungabhadra Board

CAPACITY CRUNCH

Educational boom leaves Kanakapura Road stretched beyond capacity. A proposed second airport may further add pressure, while road widening has been ruled out, limiting immediate relief options

From farmland to classrooms: Education hub faces traffic snarls as schools, colleges multiply

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

On a weekday, the stretch outside several schools on Kanakapura Road is a familiar scene. School buses jostle for space with private vehicles, parents hurry children through traffic, and security personnel guide students across busy roads.

What was once a relatively quiet arterial road on Bengaluru's southern edge has, over the past two decades, become one of the city's most prominent educational corridors.

The growth of educational institutions along Kanakapura Road mirrors the rapid expansion of southern Bengaluru. As neighbourhoods such as JP Nagar, Konanakunte, Anjanapura, Vajarahalli, Thalaghattapura and Kaggalipura witnessed a residential boom, schools and colleges followed.

LOOKING SOUTH — KANAKAPURA ROAD

"Back in 2001 when we opened Delhi Public School (DPS) South, the location was considered to be outside Bengaluru. But we chose the location for two main reasons.

"Firstly, it was an untapped market with only one or two CBSE schools in the area, and the residential population was expected to increase in the coming years. The other factor was the availability of space. We wanted a big campus that could accommodate extra-curricular activities.

"These were the main reasons we found the area suitable," said Mansoor Ali Khan, Member, Board of Management, Delhi Public Schools (Bangalore South, North, East, Electronics City, Mysuru) and School of India.

Educationists attribute the area's rise to a combination of factors. Land was comparatively affordable when many institutions were established, allowing them to develop larger campuses and sports facilities. Improved connectivity through NICE Road and, more recently, the extension of Namma Metro's Green Line have further enhanced the area's appeal.

Today, the approximately 50-km stretch is home to a mix of schools, PU colleges and higher educational institutions like engineering and medical colleges. Some educational institutions in the area include Edify, Orchids The International School, Dayananda Sagar College of Engineering, and Jyothy Institute of Technology.

Growth beyond measure

However, the rapid growth has also brought challenges.

Traffic congestion remains the most-visible concern. Residents say school opening and closing hours often turn service roads and junctions into bottlenecks.

Long queues of school buses, vans, autorickshaws and private vehicles create roadblocks.

"We spend nearly 40 minutes covering a distance that normally takes 15 minutes during school hours. It also doesn't help that the footpaths are not maintained properly, forcing many parents to use private vehicles. If the roads were safe, I would happily walk my children to school," said Yamini N, a resident of Vajarahalli.

Students and teachers, too, shared similar gripes with *DH*, stressing that the growth of educational institutions has outpaced supporting infrastructure in certain pockets. Lack of last-mile connectivity from metro stations is another major concern.

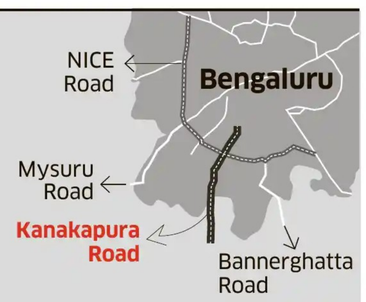
The option of widening the arterial and sub-arterial roads to accommodate the growing traffic movement is difficult to execute in the area, said KN Ramesh, Commissioner of the Bengaluru South City Corporation.

"Many parents have shown interest in boarding, because of the worsening traffic and poor road conditions. We're looking to offer five-day boarding. This way, students will spend less time commuting and can focus on both academics and extracurriculars," shared an official from a chain of ICSE schools.

(Top) Students stand outside a college on Kanakapura Road. (R) School buses parked illegally continue to cause concern along this stretch on Kanakapura Road. DH PHOTOS/PUSHKAR V

EDUCATION WATCH

In this story, *DH* tracks educational institutions in and around the Kanakapura Road corridor.



Schools say enquiries from parents and investors have increased, with expectations of rapid residential growth, while some institutions are also exploring campus expansions, transport upgrades and new facilities to accommodate future demand.

Major bottlenecks

- Konanakunte Cross
- Sarakki Junction
- Bikasipura
- Chunchaghatta
- Thalaghattapura

> It must be made mandatory for all schools to have their own parking space. This way, school buses no longer need to stop on the road in order for students to board or get off the bus. No institution must be allowed to park their vehicles on the road. This will help solve the traffic issue. The traffic police are already working on improving the traffic congestion.
>
> – **KN Ramesh,** Commissioner, Bengaluru South City Corporation

PROBLEM POINTS

- Traffic congestion during school and college hours
- Long commute times for students, parents and teachers
- Poor last-mile connectivity from metro stations
- Road safety concerns for students and pedestrians
- Strain on local infrastructure

Purple Line metro glitch causes commuter chaos

Passengers stranded as ride apps, autos hike fares

BENGALURU, DHNS

A disruption in Bengaluru metro's Purple Line services on Tuesday evening left thousands of commuters stranded, exposing gaps in the city's public transport management.

The disruption, which began around 6.30 pm, first led to suspension of services between MG Road and Magadi Road, and later between Indiranagar and Magadi Road.

By press time, services had been partially restored between Majestic and Challaghatta, while operations between Indiranagar and Majestic remained suspended.

The breakdown triggered chaos across multiple stations, initially affecting Cubbon Park, Vidhana Soudha, Central College, Majestic and KSR Bengaluru, before spreading to MG Road, Trinity, Halasuru and Indiranagar.

The underground stretch between MG Road and Magadi Road was completely affected. As crowds swelled, entry was temporarily restricted at heavily congested stations such as Majestic, Central College and Vidhana Soudha. Police personnel were deployed to manage crowds and prevent untoward incidents.

Transit rush

The sudden suspension forced thousands onto the streets, sharply increasing demand for alternative transport.

Several commuters alleged overcharging by autorickshaw drivers and steep surge pricing on cab aggregator apps.

"I needed to go to Mysore Bank Circle. The app showed Rs 117, but autos outside were demanding Rs 250. They refuse to go by meter when the metro breaks down," said a commuter stranded outside the MG Road station.

Another commuter travelling from the court complex towards Vijayanagar said the lack of immediate alternatives worsened the situation. "My phone battery was dying and I could not book a cab. The government should arrange buses immediately during such emergencies. Even a 10-minute delay disrupts the entire schedule."

However, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) did not appear to significantly expand feeder bus services to affected stations.

Many office-goers and lawyers working around MG Road and Cubbon Park were forced to walk up to Corporation Circle to access buses to southern suburbs and other parts of the city. Contrary to the BMRCL's claims of running short-loop services, commuters said they were unable to get trains even between SV Road and MG Road, forcing them to switch to autos mid-journey.

Stations shut

- **6.30 pm to 8 pm:** Cubbon Park, Vidhana Soudha, Central College, Majestic and KSR Bengaluru
- **8-9 pm:** Halasuru, Trinity, MG Road, Cubbon Park, Vidhana Soudha, Central College, Majestic and KSR Bengaluru
- **9 pm onwards:** Halasuru, Trinity, MG Road, Cubbon Park, Vidhana Soudha, Central College

Commuters stranded outside the MG Road metro station on Tuesday. The disruption began at 6.30 pm. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

DH DECCAN HERALD
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CITIZEN CONNECT
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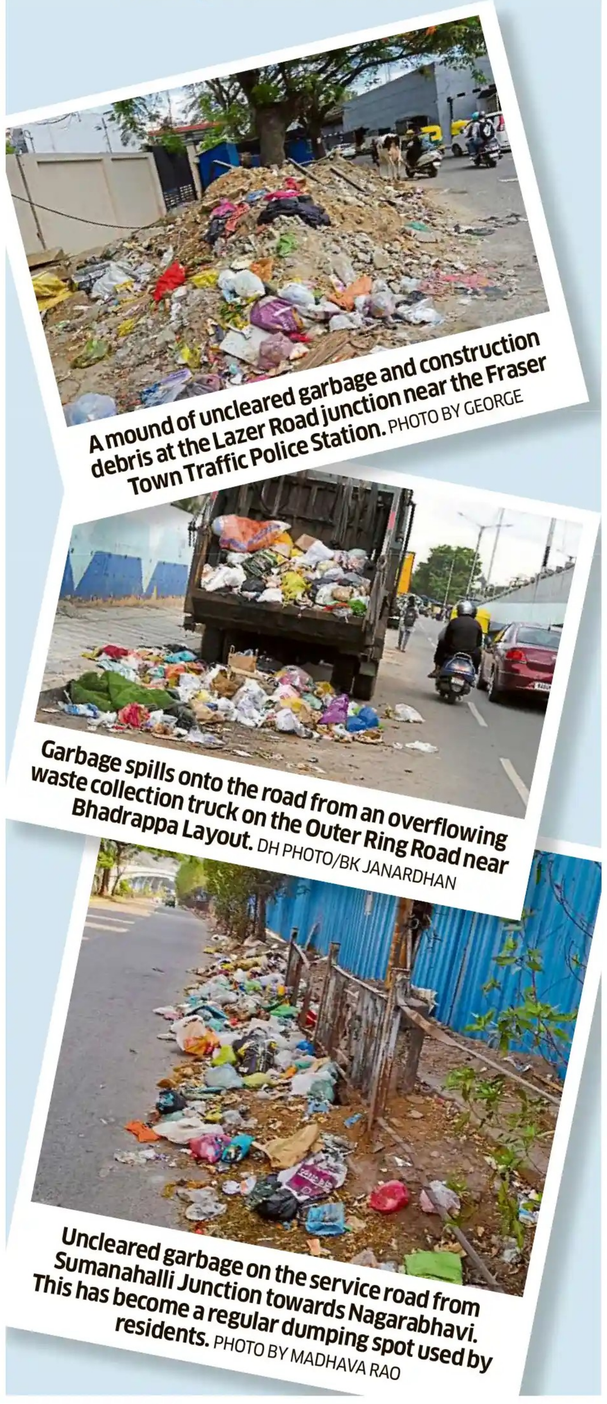
Almost every locality in Bengaluru has a street corner or vacant plot that has turned into an informal garbage dump. These black spots are not merely an eyesore; they are a threat to public health and the environment. Deccan Herald and Prajavani invite citizens to share details and photographs of such sites for publication in these columns, in order to help push for timely action from the authorities.



A mound of uncleared garbage and construction debris at the Lazer Road junction near the Fraser Town Traffic Police Station. PHOTO BY GEORGE

Garbage spills onto the road from an overflowing waste collection truck on the Outer Ring Road near Bhadrappa Layout. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

Uncleared garbage on the service road from Sumanahalli Junction towards Nagarabhavi. This has become a regular dumping spot used by residents. PHOTO BY MADHAVA RAO

Govt approves 654 road projects under Rs 2,000-cr infrastructure grant

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government has announced a Rs 2,000-crore action plan covering 654 road works across Bengaluru's 28 assembly constituencies. Each work, mostly involving asphalting of neighbourhood roads, costs an average of Rs 3 crore.

A few Congress MLAs have received the highest allocations, it is learnt.

DK Shivakumar announced the grant after assuming charge as chief minister earlier this month, instructing officials to prepare the action plan in three days.

Based on proposals shared by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), the Urban Development Department (UDD) accorded administrative approval on June 18.

The work involves improvements to roads, drains, footpaths and other allied infrastructure.

The contractors, however, focus only on asphalting the roads while paying little attention to drains and footpaths, *DH* reported earlier this week after inspecting recently asphalted roads.

The state government has not released the list of roads approved under earlier packages, creating uncertainty about whether the same works are being repeated. Meanwhile, several roads, including key stretches, continue to suffer from severe potholes and poor maintenance, raising concerns about the effectiveness of past allocations

Maheshwar Rao

The additional grant comes as the corporations have already taken up works worth Rs 2,250 crore, covering asphalting of internal (ward) roads as well as arterial and sub-arterial roads. The corporations have so far achieved less than 15% physical progress due to a shortage of bitumen.

The state government has not made public the list of roads approved in earlier packages, leaving little clarity on whether works are being repeated. Many roads, including prominent stretches, are riddled with potholes.

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao told *DH* that all five corporations selected the roads after consulting elected representatives.

In his first meeting with officials after taking charge as Greater Bengaluru Development Minister, Krishna Byre Gowda questioned the city's approach to building roads. "Is building a road rocket science? We have to get the basics right. Whatever you do, do it correctly. Prevention is the best cure. It will show that the system can function properly," he had told engineers.

Questioning why potholes recur year after year, he said the city had fallen into a cycle of building roads prone to damage and then spending public money repairing them.

Tejasvi Surya seeks white paper on pothole spending, flags delays in metro projects

BENGALURU, DHNS: BJP MP Tejasvi Surya on Tuesday demanded that the state government publish a white paper on expenditure incurred on pothole repairs in Bengaluru over the last three years, alleging that repeated announcements and allocations have not translated into visible improvements on the ground.

He also urged the government to develop a real-time dashboard to track infrastructure projects.

Addressing a press conference, the Bangalore South MP said thousands of crores had been spent on filling potholes, yet commuters continued to face damaged and pothole-ridden roads.

Tejasvi Surya

Citing National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, he claimed that 50 to 60 people had died in pothole-related incidents in recent years and questioned why detailed information on road works had not been made public.

"As taxpayers, citizens have the right to know who is carrying out what work and at what cost," Surya said, adding that the white paper should be released within 30 days.

The demand comes days after Surya wrote to Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda seeking greater transparency in road spending.

In the letter, he noted that the government's earlier deadline to make Bengaluru pothole-free had lapsed, and that a fresh six-month timeline had been announced along with an additional Rs 2,000-crore allocation for road upgrades.

Surya also accused the government of resorting to "announcement management" and "deadline management" instead of ensuring durable road infrastructure.

He further demanded the creation of a live dashboard for the five newly formed city corporations within 60 days, displaying street-wise details of ongoing works, deadlines, defect liability periods, and the names of contractors and engineers responsible for each project.

The MP also alleged delays in Bengaluru's metro expansion, noting that no new construction work has begun in the past four-and-a-half years.

Orange Line

Referring to the proposed Orange Line, he said that although the Centre approved the project two years ago, construction had not started and tenders were yet to be floated.

Taking exception to the functioning of the Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE), Surya alleged that some proposed projects were based on reports prepared by a blacklisted firm. He also said nearly 30 projects in the city remain incomplete, while new projects are being announced without adequately empowering the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA), which is meant to vet projects scientifically.

North Corp targets 20 black spots a week

BENGALURU, DHNS: Pommala Sunil Kumar, Commissioner of Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC), has directed officials to clear at least 20 black spots every week.

At a review meeting on Tuesday, Kumar that 20 black spots in the jurisdiction had been cleared.

"The commissioner directed officials to prioritise the required civil works at the remaining locations and work towards the permanent clearance of at least 20 black spots every week," a statement from the BNCC said.

The BNCC is also issuing notices to drivers and helpers of waste collection vehicles who do not report by 5.30 am. Action has followed, including termination of contractual workers found repeatedly negligent.

Kumar reviewed the performance and maintenance of cleaning and waste management equipment. He directed officials to ensure segregation of waste at source and to levy penalties on households and other establishments failing to comply.

"Officials were instructed to compile updated information on apartments and bulk waste generators across the city and to review data related to solid waste management compliance and property tax payments," the BNCC said in a statement.

BWSSB studies water sourcing

BENGALURU, DHNS: BWSSB Chairperson Manjula N has directed officials to study the feasibility of supplying water to Bengaluru from the Hemavathi and Kabini reservoirs.

Manjula on Tuesday reviewed the water levels at the Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) reservoir. She instructed officials to take precautionary measures to ensure that citizens do not face a drinking water crisis in the coming days.

Power supply disruption today

BENGALURU, DHNS: Power supply will be disrupted in several parts of South Bengaluru on Thursday between 10 am and 4 pm due to maintenance work at the Subramanyapura and ISRO Layout power stations, a press release said.

According to officials, the shutdown is being carried out to facilitate essential maintenance work.

The affected areas include Gubbalala, parts of Uttarahalli, ISRO Layout, Adarsha Apartments I and II, Mantri Tranquill Apartments, Maruthi Layout, Bharath Layout, Doddakallasandra, Agara and surrounding areas, Kumaraswamy Layout, Vittal Nagar, Maruthi Nagar, Arehalli, Ittamadu, AGS Layout, Yelachenahalli, Gangadhara Nagar, Vivekananda Colony, Kashi Nagar, Vikram Nagar, Nanjappa Layout, Bikashipura, Teachers Colony, JHBCS Layout, Bendrenagar, Eshwar Nagar, Miniyaznagar, Kanaka Nagar and adjoining localities.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Karnataka Rajya Dalit Sangharsha Samiti (Nagawara faction): State-level seminar on 'The Status and Dignity of Dalits in Democracy'; Inauguration: Satish Jarkiholi, floral tribute: PM Narendraswamy, presided over by: Shyamrao Ghatge; Gandhi Bhavan, Kumara Krupa Road; from 11 am onwards.

CULTURAL

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan: 'Chitra Bharati' art camp featuring an exhibition of artworks representing painting traditions from different Indian states; Race Course Road; 11 am–1 pm and 3 pm–6 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Patalamma Devi Seva Samiti: Yakshagana performance of 'Sudhanvaarjuna' featuring guest artistes; Patalamma Devi Temple, HSR Layout; 7 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.8°C
Minimum	21.5°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	NIL
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	59%
Sunset (Jun 24)	6:48 pm
Sunrise (Jun 25)	5:55 am
Moonrise	1:26 pm
Moonset	12:47 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

A mango market at RT Nagar wears a deserted look on Tuesday morning. DH PHOTO

Kolar protests leave a bitter taste in city mango markets

Vendors turn to other states as season winds down

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Protests in Kolar over mango prices have disrupted supply to several markets in Bengaluru.

While not many vendors depend on Karnataka mangoes due to low supply this season, those who do have been badly affected.

Banaganapalli, earlier available between Rs 80 and Rs 120 per kg, has now crossed Rs 150 per kg. Badami and Mallika varieties have also seen a slight price rise.

"We have not received the usual supply from Kolar and Srinivaspura," said Mahendar Kumar, a mango trader at APMC Yard, Yeshwantpur. "While it is not our only source, we regularly procure Banaganapalli from there and have raised prices by Rs 15 per kg."

Traders said that with the season drawing to a close, demand has eased, making sharp price hikes difficult.

Mango vendor Vetri Murugan said he was not procuring much stock and was diversifying across varieties to avoid losses.

"We have had supply issues for a week," said Sadeeq Pasha, a mango vendor at the Jayamahal Road mango market.

"We also sell Totapuri, a variety of raw mango, for which we depend entirely on Kolar, but supplies have been stalled for a few days."

The Karnataka Mango Board said protesters were demanding Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Totapuri. Banaganapalli and Totapuri are the varieties largely grown in Kolar.

At all prominent mango markets, vendors stock maximum quantities from other states.

"We are getting mangoes from neighbouring states and even Uttar Pradesh this season," said a vender at RT Nagar Market, Mohammed Tasleem. "We have experienced inconsistency with mango supply from Karnataka and the demand for it is also low."

Lakshmi, a vendor, said many shops in the market did not depend on mangoes from Karnataka.

"We do not know whether it is fertiliser use or reduced yield, but we are not getting enough. They are not a big part of what we sell."

Travellers' phones targeted at B'luru airport

Video by an alert passenger garners 28 lakh views on Insta

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

A video alleging that scammers at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) are attempting to access passengers' phones has gone viral, sparking concern.

Ranvijay, a Pune resident visiting the city, was approached at the airport on June 13 while trying to board a flight to Chennai.

"It was a weekend afternoon, and the airport was decently crowded. First, a middle-aged man approached me asking for my phone in order to book train tickets," he told *DH*.

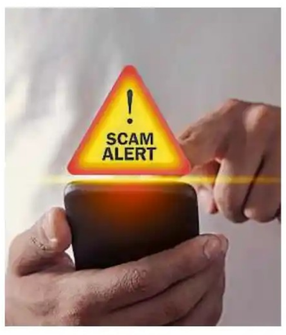
"Something seemed fishy as he already had a functioning phone in his hand. So, I asked him to leave."

Soon after, a young man approached him, requesting to use his phone. "He looked like he was in his early 20s, or even younger. He wanted me to help him with a payment," he added.

"He wanted me to make a payment on his behalf and assured me that he would return the money once he got home. He kept insisting on using my phone to make the payment.

"He had a sheet in his hand with multiple QR codes. His persistence confirmed that he was trying to scam me. When I raised my voice and started gathering a crowd to question his actions, he quickly ran away."

The video, posted on Ranvijay's Instagram account on June 22, has since garnered 28 lakh views and 1.27 lakh shares.



Nobody asks for money anymore — they ask for access. Instead of asking for money, people now ask to borrow and use your phone under the guise of making a phone call or looking something up on the internet.

Similar incidents have previously been reported at the airport and the city's railway stations, passengers told *DH*.

"In the past two months, I have witnessed similar interactions both at the airport and at KSR railway station," said Kamal, a resident of Basavanagudi.

"Instead of asking for money, people now ask to borrow and use your phone under the guise of making a phone call or looking something up on the internet."

The Railway Protection Force and KSRTC said their teams were on the ground but had received no formal complaints of this nature.

Airport police are investigating the Ranvijay incident, an official told *DH*.

"As no formal complaint was registered, we do not know when this incident took place. We have not received any complaints regarding these scams," he said.

"But on the basis of theviral video, we are trying to track down who these people are. We are also keeping a close eye to weed out any suspicious behaviour of a similar kind."

Police said they have increased patrolling in and around the airport to keep an eye on suspicious elements.

BIAL, the airport operator, declined to comment.

ARO issues fraudulent 'A' khatas for unauthorised layout; suspended

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) on Tuesday suspended an Assistant Revenue Officer (ARO) for allegedly tampering with records to issue 'A' khatas in an unauthorised layout.

The suspension order accuses KS Manjula, ARO at Herohalli subdivision of Bengaluru West City Corporation, of facilitating khatas for over 50 sites in an unauthorised layout of four acres in Herohalli ward, Yeshwantpur assembly constituency, by altering land records and bypassing legal procedures.

The action followed a complaint by BJP leader NR Ramesh.

The GBA order said the irregularities have also caused revenue loss of several crores.

The suspension was based on a report by the corporation's joint commissioner, which noted that the layout was developed without approvals from planning authorities and over 50 khatas were created in the names of private individuals by manipulating manual registers of the revenue section.

MUNISH MOUDGIL
GBA Special Commissioner

"Properties in A's name in manual registers were put in someone else's name by creating a new khata.

The report recommended disciplinary action and suspension to prevent further tampering with records. It also recommended a criminal case against Manjula for creating fraudulent property ownership records and illegal 'A' khatas, causing loss to the public exchequer.

"This is an extremely serious case of tampering with official records," said GBA Special Commissioner (Revenue) Munish Moudgil in his report.

"The properties in A's name in manual registers were put in someone else's name by creating a new khata. 'A' khata was created without proper supporting documents and approvals from the competent authorities," the report said.

DH
DECCAN HERALD

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Cops raid gambling den, seize liquor & cash

BENGALURU, DHNS: Subramanyanagar police raided a gambling den containing 18.91 litres of illegally stored liquor and detained eight suspects, officials said on Tuesday.

On the night of June 22, officials received information that six to eight people were engaged in Andar-Bahar gambling inside a house at 12th Cross, Kethamaranahalli, and that illegal liquor was stocked inside the house and being served to the gamblers.

Acting swiftly on the tip, a police team went to the spot and raided the premises, taking into custody eight people found gambling.

Officers recovered Rs 62,520 in cash kept as betting money, and 52 playing cards.

Investigators also seized 18.91 litres of assorted liquor, valued at Rs 66,410. The seizure included 10 litres of whisky, 6.02 litres of brandy, 1.5 litres of wine, and 0.24 litres of vodka.Subramanyanagar police have registered a case under the Gambling Act and the Excise Act. Further investigation is underway.

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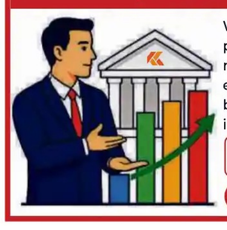

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Presided by
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Hon'ble Minister For PWD

In the August Presence of
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Hon'ble Minister for Energy & Tourism

Guests of Honour
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Member of Parliament

Shri P C Mohan (Esteem Member, BGC)
Hon'ble Member of Parliament

Shri Rizwan Arshad
Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly

Shri K Govindaraj (Esteem Member, BGC)
Hon'ble Member of Legislative Council
President-Karnataka Olympic Association

Dr. Shalini Rajneesh
Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka

Captain & Managing Committee of BGC

Amidst a bustling city, an emerald expanse of gentle terrain lies the Bangalore Golf Club, a 150 year old golf course-a living poem woven in shades of green. Dew-kissed blades of grass shimmer like fine silk under the early sun, while eucalyptus and rain trees stretch their arms skyward, whispering stories to the wind.

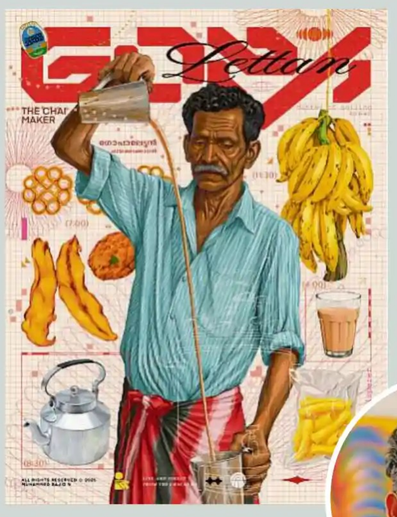
Each fairway is a ribbon threading through groves where mynas chatter, bulbuls dart, and sunbirds flash jewel tones. Butterflies waltz over flowering shrubs, and quiet ponds mirror drifting clouds. This lush sanctuary breathes life into the city's rhythm, gifting Bangalore its precious lung space-cooling, cleansing, and renewing the air that sustains it.

The golf course unfurls like a cool green lung, inhaling dust and exhaling clarity into the garden city's restless air. Fairways curve between rain trees and akasha mallige, their canopies spilling shade that softens the sharpness of summer light.

Each tree here is more than ornament, together they cool the air, shelter birds, and deepen the city's shrinking green cover, keeping Bangalore's famed warm & tender climate. To play a round at BGC is to walk inside this living sanctuary, every shot a small pilgrimage through filtered light, birdsong, and the comforting breath of an urban forest.

Celebrating 150 years of heritage and tradition.

Man behind viral digital portraits from Kerala



Muhammed Sajid (right) pays tribute to people, such as tea sellers, who sustain urban life.

Bengaluru-based artist wanted to challenge himself against generative AI tools

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

Bengaluru-based visual designer Muhammed Sajid is the artist behind the viral digital illustrations celebrating Kerala's working-class communities. His 'Folks from Kerala' series features a tea seller, flower vendor, street sweeper, security guard, tailor, postman, fish hawker and coir worker.

The inspiration for the series came after Muhammed, who is from Kozhikode in Kerala, moved to Bengaluru for work in 2015 and began missing home and his people. "It is an ongoing series. In 2018, I made 13 illustrations of people I knew personally. This time, I focused on familiar faces we encounter in our daily lives," says the 32-year-old.

The new portraits differ from his 2018 work in both style and storytelling. Rendered in a realistic style and vibrant colours, they are set against collages of typography, maps, geometric motifs, and objects associated with each profession. The compositions are also embedded with rich tributes to their subjects. Muhammed describes the fish hawker as someone who "walks at dawn carrying the scent of the sea", the security guard as one who "watches without a word", and the coir worker as someone "braiding the earth".

Explaining his creative process, Muhammed says he wanted to pit himself against "AI-generated art". The effort seems to have paid off. Praising his work, one Instagram user wrote, "Bro eats ten AI for breakfast (sic)." "Some people said they tried to recreate my portraits using AI, but the result didn't come close," says Muhammed, whose series has been nominated for the AOI World Illustration Awards 2026. "AI tools are getting better, but their output still lacks perspective," he adds. Each portrait took at least 48 hours to complete.

The biggest compliment, however, has come from the community he set out to celebrate. "Friends and relatives have sent me photos of chai shops, from Kalyan Nagar in Bengaluru to Kozhikode and even Dubai, where my 'Chai Maker' illustration has been printed and displayed," he says.

The artwork depicts Gopalettan, a fictional chai seller, surrounded by sights common at a chai kada (shop) in Kerala, think rose cookies, pazhampori, fryums and bananas.

Visit the 'Folks from Kerala' series on muhammedsajid.com

POPCORN

Gram swaraj

The government had imposed a temporary ban on Telegram ahead of the NEET exam. To prevent question paper leaks, silly. This has left some folks puzzled. Why just Telegram and not WhatsApp? The explanation we hear is that the government didn't want to disrupt the schedules of millions of students gaining their knowledge from WhatsApp University. Yappa!

Sex workers criticise 'ill-informed' content creators

They say they are being filmed without their consent

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

Alia Bhatt plays a sex worker in 2022 film 'Gangubai Kathiawadi'.

The actions of irresponsible reporters and ill-informed content creators have resulted in the harassment of street-based sex workers, say activists. Sensitisation of the general public, including media personnel, to sex workers' issues, their rights, and dignity is an urgent need, they say.

Last month, a YouTuber posted a video of herself accosting sex workers soliciting on a road in Bengaluru and hurling abuses at them on camera. Her video went viral with commenters praising her for her feat. This is only one among a spate of videos posted by content creators on Facebook and YouTube. Sex workers and activists *Metrolife* spoke to say it is a violation of their rights and privacy.

Financial support

"Many women who are into this profession are supporting their entire family. Quite often, family members are not aware of their profession. A number of women contemplated suicide after such videos went viral because the creators did not blur their faces. We then filed a complaint with the cyber crime department," said Reena (name changed) of Sadhana Mahila Sangha, which works for the rights of street-based sex workers. It currently has around 700 members.

"We stopped them and gave them counselling. We also counselled their children to make them understand the circumstances under which they took up the work," she added.

A majority of these women come from troubled families, are abandoned by their husbands, or are separated. Education is minimal. Some escaped from the clutches of traffickers, and saw no other way out. Sanchitha (name changed) has two children who are in constant need of medical attention. Her 13-year-old son has Type 1 diabetes, and her 19-year-old daughter has a heart condition. Their medical bills come up to Rs 20,000 a month. Caring for her children takes up most of her time and she works for barely two hours a day, which does not cover much of her expenses.

Troubled past

Reena, herself a former sex worker, left her village to escape her abusive husband. "I was married off at 11 to my mother's brother who was 10 years older than me," says the 54-year-old. She landed in Bengaluru on a bus in the early 90s. She recalls being raped at the age of 13. A sex worker on the street noticed something was amiss and took her under her care. But she wanted money of her own and got into sex work. Eight years later, she gave it up and became an activist.

Meghna Ki (name changed), 57, a resident of Ramachandrapuram, has a similar story. Married off at age 10 or 11 to a 40-year-old widow with a newborn baby, she went on to have two sons with the same man. However, unhappy with her life, she ran away from home and eventually found her way to Bengaluru. She too was raped. With no means to make a living, she too fell into sex work and later married another man who turned out to be abusive. "He would grab money from my clients and beat them," she recalls. But she found the strength to leave him. She stopped doing sex work 25 years ago.

Ambiguous law

Advocate Poorna Ravishankar notes that while the law does not explicitly say that sex work is illegal, it does lay down provisions under which it could be criminalised. "The law says it is illegal to solicit in public, one cannot allow sex work on their property, an adult cannot live off the earnings of a sex worker, and one cannot run a brothel. But the law also lays down what soliciting entails — exposure of body parts or disrobing to lure men, for instance," she explains.

Poorna notes that the sex workers face discrimination even when they are not soliciting. "They are often not allowed to enter public spaces. They have been denied entry into buses and chased away from tea shops," she shares. While their treatment has improved over the years, there are still instances of harassment. "We as a society are blind to what drives a person to sex work. We don't try to understand their circumstances. Many of them simply do not have a choice, and even if it is their choice, it is their life and their call," says Priyank Asha Sukanand, member of Coalition for Sex workers, Sexual and Gender Minorities Rights.

The members of Sadhana want the government to re-examine and impose the recommendations of the Jayamala Committee, which include minimal livable wages for those who wish to give up sex work, provision of education for children and medical care for the family, sensitisation drives for the public, and housing. "The Chethana Scheme, which gives sex workers a one-time grant of Rs 45,000 as a rehabilitation measure, is inadequate," says Vinutha, an activist.

SC GUIDELINES

On May 29, the Supreme Court released a set of guidelines that differentiated voluntary sex work from sex trafficking. While it states that sex trafficking is illegal, it asks that the laws be relooked at to ensure that voluntary sex workers are entitled to legal protection and safeguards, and asks for a rights-based approach ensuring dignity of sex workers.

Is AI bringing back a human touch to recruitment?

HR professionals are receiving a barrage of near-identical and often irrelevant CVs

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

Job seekers are using AI tools to generate "compelling" CVs, packed with confident language, flawless formatting and keywords tailored to job descriptions. Recruiters, meanwhile, are using AI to screen thousands of applications and identify likely candidates in minutes.

Yet discussions on online forums and several studies suggest AI is not necessarily making hiring easier.

In Bengaluru, it is pushing some job seekers back towards networking and referrals. Recruiters, too, are speaking to candidates much earlier in the hiring process now.

Numbers vs impact

Two youngsters told *Metrolife* that when every CV appears to be a good fit, talent spotting must rely more on human judgement, not algorithms.

"I am applying for research roles in biology. AI is good at sifting through facts and figures, which are common in tech CVs, but I doubt it can understand the depth and impact of my thesis in my resume," says a candidate who sends out 30-40 applications a month.

A 23-year-old worries about the precedent AI is setting. "I have read on Reddit that companies use third-party AI tools to score resumes. If your score is low and that data is shared across platforms, do you permanently become a poor candidate?" she wonders.

'More false positives'

For recruiters, AI has become a double-edged sword. Irfan Ansari, an HR consultant, says companies are using AI not only to screen candidate profiles quickly but also to conduct interviews and psychometric assessments (to measure cognitive abilities and behaviour) using chatbots.

One expert working at the intersection of recruitment and AI says the technology can now also generate CVs from scratch by speaking to applicants in multiple languages. Plus, it can rank candidates, analyse career progression and summarise chatbot-led interviews for hiring managers. However, he admits the number of "false positives" reaching recruiters has gone up.

Annie Thomas, an HR professional, agrees. Resumes optimised for keywords often pass screening but are not always reliable indicators of actual talent, she says. This is especially worrying when hiring senior professionals. "In some cases, people with impressive CVs had to be asked to leave within a month. They simply could not function without ChatGPT," she says.

She has also seen a rise in unrelated applications coming her way, perhaps a result of AI lacking context.

"We are a media company. For an account executive role, we have received applications from financial accountants," she says, explaining that "accounts" in her industry refers to client management, not bookkeeping.

"Now, if a resume is packed with jargon such as 'I empower people', I put it aside. Or if the candidate reaches the interview stage, I ask them to justify why they used it. We also pay attention to eye movement during online interviews because some people read answers generated by chatbots in real time," she says.

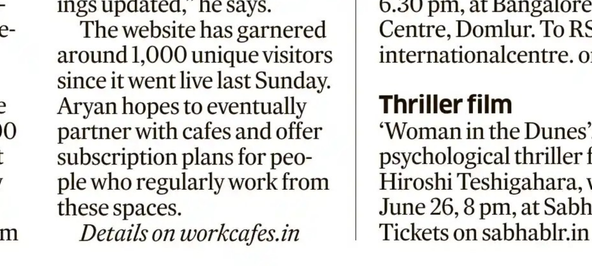
Nini Irom, another HR professional, says only four out of 10 candidates live up to what their resumes promise. As a result, her team now makes informal calls before formal interviews to check whether candidates can back up their claims. She says the calls also help them "uncover skills" that AI may have glossed over as irrelevant.

Rejection emails

All stakeholders agree that the situation is evolving.

Malini Lakshman, a senior HR professional, has heard of candidates dropping out after realising a bot would be interviewing them. But the recruitment-AI expert believes chatbot interviewers have some advantages. "We have had candidates schedule interviews with AI at 2 am, and on weekends. Women candidates also feel more comfortable asking questions about care benefits," he says.

The job seekers *Metrolife* spoke to say they are at least happy that companies now use AI to send rejection emails instead of ghosting them!



A 2026 survey found that 11% of job aspirants would use AI-generated exaggeration without hesitation, while a 2025 report revealed that 90% of hiring managers have seen a rise in low-effort 'spammy' applications.

B'luru artist's work finds a global stage at the UN

'Lakes on Fire', an acrylic work by Namita Kulkarni (right), depicts a Bengaluru lake catching fire.

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

A series of paintings by Bengaluru-based artist Namita Kulkarni examining the links between colonialism, human rights and the climate crisis is currently on display at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York. The exhibition, 'Colonialism and the Climate Crisis', organised by the International Center for Advocates Against Discrimination (ICAAD) and endorsed by UN Women, is on until July 10.

Featuring seven works from a nine-piece series, the exhibition challenges conventional narratives around climate change, "not merely as an environmental issue, but also as a human rights concern". It includes six acrylic-on-canvas paintings and one work created using watercolour and pressed flowers.

Some of her works include 'Lakes on Fire', which depicts a Bengaluru lake catching fire; 'Once Upon a Reef', which portrays pollution in the oceans; and 'Woman Stands Shining', a painting inspired by the Diné people, also known as the Navajo Nation.

"The colonial dimensions of the climate crisis are often completely overlooked. The culture of colonisation — both historical and ongoing — is the context from which the climate crisis arises," she says.

The artist believes modern systems are increasingly organised around profit rather than life. "All of our major systems — economy, military, health — have profit at the centre, not life. What would be under a different paradigm — where life is at the centre and not profit? That is a question I'd like viewers to take with them."

The series was first exhibited in Bengaluru at Bangalore Creative Circus in November 2022.

For Namita, the challenge was to address a difficult subject in a way that didn't leave the audience feeling overwhelmed.

Some of her most memorable moments from the exhibition have been her visitor interaction. One encounter that stayed with her was with a young school girl who attended despite a toe injury.

"I gave her a UV flashlight, which makes some of the colours in my paintings glow, and she was so delighted," she says.

'Jhumkewali' brings queer joy to stage

POORVI SANATH
TEAM METROLIFE

Harshini Misra (left) and Lauren Robinson (right) as Rekha and Bindu.

A queer love story set in 1970s Bombay will make its Bengaluru debut this Saturday. 'Jhumkewali' follows Rekha and Bindu, two young women who meet over a lost earring, and fall for each other. A coming-of-age story where friendship tips into romance, it is set against the politics, music, and fashion of the time. The play is written by Ami Bhansali and directed by Nidhi Krishna and Mekhala.

The directors were drawn to 'Jhumkewali' because it resists the suffering that often defines queer narratives. "We wanted to make a story about queer joy because our lives are not defined only by trauma. We have complex and meaningful lives," says Nidhi. The troupe hopes people in Bengaluru will feel the same warmth that audiences experienced during their previous 12 shows, all houseful. "They should feel a sense of solidarity with these two characters," says Mekhala. "Not only did queer people exist in history, but they also lived joyful, fulfilling lives." Produced by Trisha Dhar Mali, the play features Lauren Robinson and Harshini Misra in the lead roles. The production design team comprises Utkarshh Babbar (lights), Srishti Vaideeswaran (set) and Riya Rokade (costumes). Karshni has given the score.

On June 27, 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm, at Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield. Tickets on in.bookmyshow.com and at the box office.

Guide to finding the best work cafes

It gives details about seating, power outlets, peak hours, and food options

SUBHASHINI RAMASAMY
TEAM METROLIFE

Indiranagar has the highest number of work-friendly cafes on Workcafes.in, a platform created by Aryan Pravin Rai (inset).

Cafes in the city have become unofficial workspaces for individuals seeking a quiet corner and teams that have outgrown their offices.

But with so many options available, how do you find a space that ticks all the boxes — reliable WiFi, ample charging points and noise levels that do not disrupt your flow of thoughts?

Aryan Pravin Rai has a solution. The 22-year-old product builder has created Workcafes.in, a website to help users find cafes suited to their work needs.

"While I enjoy working from cafes, it was always difficult to find the right one. A Google search gives so many options, but there is no way to filter them according to specific requirements," he says.

Using large language models (LLMs) to analyse data from more than 1,000 cafes, Aryan curated a list of over 200 work-friendly spots across 20 localities. The website classifies them into four categories: 'Best for work', 'Cheapest good coffee', 'Hidden gems' and 'Built for deep focus'. Listings include details such as timings, seating, power outlets, noise levels, peak hours, and food options. Users can also suggest new cafes and report inaccuracies.

The website also features a colour-coded map that rates cafes according to how work-friendly they are."I personally call cafes to verify information, and keep listings updated," he says.

The website has garnered around 1,000 unique visitors since it went live last Sunday. Aryan hopes to eventually partner with cafes and offer subscription plans for people who regularly work from these spaces.

Details on workcafes.in

EVENTS

Queer celebration
'Satrangi Mela', a day-long queer festival featuring talks, workshops, drag performances and a flea market, will be held on June 28, 2 pm, at Indiranagar Social. Details on @darkvibesociety on Instagram.

Physics walk
The Naturalist School is organising a 'Physics in Nature Walk' on June 27, 8.30 am, at Visvesvaraya Industrial & Technological Museum, Kasturba Road. It will explore how trees, birds, and butterflies use physics to overcome everyday challenges. Register on naturalist.school

Art talk
A discussion titled 'Are Tanjore and Mysore paintings different?' will compare two south Indian art traditions on June 26, 6.30 pm, at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. To RSVP, visit bangalore-internationalcentre. org

Thriller film
'Woman in the Dunes', a 1964 Japanese psychological thriller film directed by Hiroshi Teshigahara, will be screened on June 26, 8 pm, at Sabha Blr, Kamaraj Road. Tickets on sabhablr.in

CM to conduct public meetings at 'Krishna'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has declared that all his public meetings will be at his home office 'Krishna,' explaining that he won't meet anyone at his Sadashivanagar residence.

In a media statement, he has clearly stated that he will no longer meet anyone at his Sadashivanagar residence due to unavoidable reasons.

He has requested the public, party leaders and party workers to respect his appeal and not take it otherwise.

Tiff over tap water: 2 students held for beating PG owner to death

Victim assaulted with cricket bat; dies in hospital

BENGALURU, DHNS

Two college students, in their early 20s, have been arrested for murdering a paying guest (PG) facility owner following a trivial altercation in eastern Bengaluru, police said.

On Monday evening, 21-year-old Rakesh and 20-year-old Don Brite Son were washing their feet at a tap inside the Laxmi Narasimha PG near Kasturi Nagar Main Road when the owner, 37-year-old Madhav Matle, objected, leading to an argument.

Matle then picked up a cricket bat to attack the students, police said. The duo allegedly overpowered him, snatched the bat and repeatedly assaulted him. Matle later succumbed to his injuries at a hospital.

Ramamurthy Nagar police visited the spot after receiving information about the incident. They tracked the students down and arrested them for murder under BNS Section 103.

"It is suspected that the students had consumed alcohol before going near the PG," a senior police officer close to the investigation said. "They were not staying there and have no prior criminal record."

Rakesh, a resident of RS Palya, is in his final year BCom. Son, from Jeevanahalli, is doing his first year BBA.

Past PG murders

- 2024: A 24-year-old woman from Bihar was stabbed to death in a PG in Koramangala.
- 2022: A 23-year-old worker from Nepal was murdered by his colleagues at a PG in Babusapalya.

Elderly man kills wife, ends life

BENGALURU, DHNS: An elderly man allegedly killed his ailing wife and died by suicide following a domestic dispute, officials said on Tuesday.

The deceased, both from Bihar, are 77-year-old Sumitra Prasad and her 83-year-old husband, Shivanandam Prasad. The couple had recently come to the city and were staying with their son near Sampigehalli.

The couple frequently argued about their declining health and after one such argument on Monday night, Prasad smothered Sumitra, to death before dying by suicide in their room police said. The bodies were found the following morning. Sampigehalli police visited the spot, registered a case and sent the bodies for post-mortem.

Resume probe into disappearance of dogs on DRDO campus: HC

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday permitted resumption of investigation into disappearance of 21 stray dogs from Defence Research and Development Organisation campus in Bengaluru. Justice M Nagaprasanna clarified that no harassment or coercive action shall be taken against two officers of the DRDO named as accused in connection with the alleged incident of March 9, 2026.

The petition is filed by Rajesh Kumar Sahu, estate officer and TG Sudhakar, the cleaning supervisor at DRDO challenging the crime registered against them for the incident by the Mahadevapura police based on the complaint by Assistant Director of Animal Husbandry division at Bengaluru East City corporation.

Advocate Vaishali Hegde, appearing for Bengaluru East Corporation, contended that no one can enter the campus of DRDO without permission. She informed the court that the interim stay on investigation must be vacated to find out as to who entered the campus, who took away the dogs and their whereabouts today. B Jagadish, state public prosecutor, submitted that the dogs were last seen at the DRDO campus and CCTV footage shows as to how unethically they were bundled up on the night of March 9.

'Never imagined such horrific murders can happen in our apartment'

Residents initially thought blood-stained man was creating a scene

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS:

The entrance of the Sai Green Homes where the murders were committed. DH PHOTO/MANJUNATH SHETTAR

Beer Bahadur, a security guard from Nepal deployed at the apartment, recalled the sequence of events leading up to the gruesome triple murders.

Narrating the sequence of events, Bahadur said, "Around 1.30 pm, Somasundar arrived on his motorcycle and tried to enter flat no. G 3. I stopped him and asked where he was going. Shortly afterwards, his elder daughter came down and took him inside. He told me that his daughter was staying in the flat along with her partner and then left the premises. At around 5.30 pm, Somasundar returned along with his wife and younger daughter. The three of them went into the flat."

Bahadur said that at around 8.45 pm, he suddenly heard loud screams.

"Somasundar came running out of the ground-floor flat towards the basement area with blood stains all over his body. He repeatedly shouted, 'Save me, save me,' before collapsing near the entrance close to the security cabin," Bahadur said.

He recollected that some of the residents who had gathered mistook the bleeding man to be someone in an intoxicated state and creating a scene.

"It is only when they took a closer look at him did they realise that it is indeed someone who had been stabbed. We immediately alerted the police and he was rushed to a nearby private hospital".

The apartment comprises five floors with 39 flats. "My family and I have been working here as security personnel for both day and night shifts," Bahadur said.

Residents in shock

A neighbour living on the third floor told *DH* that the murders had left residents traumatised.

"It was terrifying. We never imagined such a horrific incident could take place in our apartment. Ever since the murder, many of us have been unable to sleep at night. The incident continues to haunt us," she said.

The resident said she had decided to sell her flat and move out of the locality as she no longer feld comfortable living in the apartment.

She added that the terrace, from where the suspected escaped after the murder, is usually accessible to residents during the day to dry out clothes.

"The terrace remains open during day time, but the security guard locks up the terrace doors at around 10 pm," she said.

CCTV footage shows the suspects walking out of the neighbouring building

Triple murder: Suspects went to terrace, jumped to next bldg to duck detection

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Shwetha and Kenneth, accused in the brutal triple murder at Sai Green Apartment, appear to have meticulously planned their escape. Taking advantage of the building's structure and an adjacent under-construction property to evade capture, they swiftly moved from one terrace to another to flee.

The five-storey apartment has an open terrace that residents frequently use during the day to dry clothes. According to investigators, after attacking Somasundar, the accused confined his wife Muthulakshmi and younger daughter Supriya inside the flat, before making their way to the terrace.

However, the police are yet to trace the key that the suspects had used to lock the main door after Somasundar ran out with bloodstains and cried for help.

Police suspect the accused climbed onto the terrace and crossed over to a neighbouring under-construction building, using it as an escape route before disappearing from the locality.

CCTV footage later captured the duo calmly walking away from the apartment premises without carrying any belongings, suggesting they had planned the getaway in advance.

Investigators believe the duo were familiar with the layout of the apartment and deliberately avoided exiting through the main gate, immediately after committing the crime.

Sources said they may have anticipated that the security staff, who reside within the apartment complex, could become suspicious and provide crucial leads to the police. The escape route through the terrace and adjoining building appears to have been chosen to avoid detection.

Avenues

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State Bank of India
Central Recruitment & Promotion Department
Corporate Centre, Mumbai
Phone: 022-22820427

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Date : 24/06/2026

Shri Amit P. Kore
Chairman, Board of Management,
KLE Society, Belagavi

PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA, AFS, YELAHANKA, BENGALURU: 560063

Website:https://afsyelahanka.kvs.ac.in **Mail:**kvafsyel63@gmail.com **Phone: 080-29721121**

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Walk-in-interview for the following post will be conducted at PM SHRI KV AFS Yelahanka on **01.07.2026 from 8.30 a.m.** onwards to prepare a panel of Part Time / Contractual Teachers for the academic year 2026-27 on purely contractual basis. **REGISTRATION TIME: 08.30 am to 10.00 am**

Date	Post & Subject
01.07.2026	**1. PGT - Hindi, Physics, Chemistry, Economics. 2. TGT – Sanskrit, Kannada, Science 3. Primary Teachers**
	Other post - Computer Instructor, Yoga coach, Sports Coach, Music Coach, Art & Craft Coach, Special Educator, Counselor, Data Entry Operators, Balvatika caregivers
Important instructions	**Interested candidates are required to register themselves online through the KVS SAMVIDA SATHI PORTAL: https://samvida-sathi.kvs.gov.in/**
	1. All eligible candidates may attend interview with complete Bio-data, Original documents and one set of self-attested qualification certificates.
	2. For further information regarding eligibility etc log on to Vidyalaya website: https://afsyelahanka.kvs.ac.in/
	3. The posts are purely contractual and other terms and conditions applicable as per KVS rules.
	4. No TA/DA will be admissible for interview
	5. Those who are unable to log in https://samvida-sathi.kvs.gov.in/ Samvida Sathi Portal can directly report to Vidyalaya as per the date and time given above.

Sd/- Principal
K.V. AFS Yelahanka

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S. Nijalingappa Medical College & Hanagal Shri Kumareshwar Hospital & Research Centre
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WANTED

Applications are invited for the following posts Broad & Super Specialty Faculty

Sl. No.	Department	Post	Qualification
1	Anatomy	Assistant Professor	MD or MSc in Anatomy
2	Physiology	Assistant Professor	MD or MSc in Physiology
3	Forensic Medicine	Assistant Professor	MD in Forensic Medicine
4	Dermatology	Associate Professor/ Professor	MD in Dermatology
5	Neurosurgery	Neurosurgeon	MCh or DNB in Neurosurgery
6	Casualty	Casualty Medical Officer	MBBS, preference will be given to experienced candidates

MEDICAL ANCILLARY STAFF

Sl. No.	Department	No. of Post	Qualification
1	Nurse Educator	01	B.Sc/Post Basic B.Sc/M.Sc Degree with 2-5 years experience
2	Infection Control Nurse	01	DGNM/B.Sc/Post Basic B.Sc and Infection Control Training Certificate with 2-5 years experience.
3	Dietician	02	MSc in Nutrition and Dietetics
4	CSSD Technician	02	Diploma in CSSD Technology or 1 year Certificate Course in CSSD also eligible.
5	HR Learning & Development	01	A Master's Degree or Postgraduate Diploma in Human Resources, Organizational Development, Education, or Business Administration.

* Interview dates will be informed to the eligible candidates.
* Salary as per the experience and negotiable.
* The last date to send the application is **15 days** from the date of publication of this notification.
* Application along with xerox copies of all relevant certificates and documents should be forwarded to Dean, **S. Nijalingappa Medical College, Navanagar, Bagalkote-587103** or email to snmcmedbgk@yahoo.co.in

*** Candidates should compulsorily mention the personal contact number & specify for which post they have applied on the envelope.**

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Tender Notice No. : PCMM/GENL/TP/2026/25 Dated: 22/06/2026
TENDER FOR "E" PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

The Principal Chief Materials Manager, South Eastern Railway, Hd. Qrs. Office (5th Floor), New administrative Building, 11, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-700043 for and on behalf of The President of India invites open E-tenders which have been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in** as follows. All the tenders will be Closed at 14.00 hrs.

SL. No.	Tender No.	Closing Date	Brief Description	Qty.	EMD (in Rs.)
1	60260004A	15/07/26	Elastic Rail Clip (ERC) J clip with higher TOE Load for fish plated joint/ insulated glued joint on PSC sleeper etc.	600000 Nos.	1416000/-
2	81251804A	08/07/26	Liquefied Petroleum Gas for industrial application.	362139 Kg.	702340/-
3	75263628	16/07/26	Vinyl Coated Upholstery Fabric (Artificial Leather) for AC Coaches etc.	44045 Mtr.	278410/-
4	75263049	09/07/26	Flexible Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) Flooring Sheet in rolls etc.	920 Nos.	854420/-
5	45263190	13/07/26	Supply of Valve Regulated Lead Acid Battery of 120 AH capacity etc.	742 Set.	2000000/-
6	IG265736	15/07/26	Low maintenance lead acid stationary secondary cell 2 V 300 AH. etc.	650 Nos.	115070/-
7	5626RGC_RELAY_QTA2	20/07/26	Running Contract/Price Agreement for supply of Relay QTA2 etc.	6000 Nos.	424100/-
8	80263042	20/07/26	Oil Hydraulic. IS: 10522/1983, Gr. VG-68.	106680 Ltr.	181450/-
9	GEM/2026/B/7669245	13/07/26	Outsourced of daily indoor activities Housekeeping Service etc.	02 Years.	461919/-
10	50263018	17/07/26	Supply of 2 MB Programmable Primary Digital Drop Insert Multiplexer complete with all accessories.	32 Set.	123920/-
11	80261861	31/08/26	Inhibited mineral Insulating oil for Main transformer etc.	304710 Ltr.	545800/-
12	IG265279A	20/07/26	Procurement of Furniture for Santragachi Railway Station under ABSS.	As per Tender	431110/-
13	80263034	02/09/26	Shell gadus S5 V 42 P 2.5 grease in 18 KGS Pack etc.	14436 Kg.	653910/-
14	38263994	11/07/26	Rope arrangement set for ESCORTS Design BMBS etc.	1330 Nos.	211210/-
15	38263337	16/07/26	Knuckle for up-graded HTCBC etc.	36000 Nos.	2000000/-
16	38264080A	23/07/26	POH kit of CASNUB Bogie for ESCORTS Design BMBS etc.	3180 Set.	250100/-
17	33263536	12/08/26	BOGIE FRAME ASSLY. FOR AIR SPRING etc.	24 Nos.	161430/-
18	33263013	05/08/26	Ball Joint Roll Link etc.	9200 Nos.	303540/-
19	30263613	03/08/26	Hose Coupling for Feed Pipe etc.	20300 Nos.	746450/-
20	GSD-KGP-UNLOAD-LOAD26-28B	20/07/26	Loading-Unloading and Stacking Of Railway material for 02 Years at 09 Depot in General Stores Depot/KGP under Dy.CMM/GSD/KGP.	24000 MT.	114100/-
21	43263026	14/07/26	Scroll Compressor similar to model no. ZR 61 KCE, TFD 522 etc.	798 Nos.	725570/-
22	25251249B	07/07/26	Set of O/H rubber kit for air brake.	1003 Set.	112320/-
23	29260026	08/07/26	FS all steel lock Lock nut.	34111 Nos.	146520/-
24	25261251	13/07/26	Oil Cooler Radiator for Loco Main Transformer.	55 Nos.	453810/-
25	16265001	27/07/26	Overhaul Kit for all LRUs of CCB-II IR etc.	10 Set.	175350/-
26	29263151	29/07/26	Set of axle box bearing.	178 Set.	344770/-
27	29255133	03/08/26	Set of labyrinth and Bearing cap etc.	200 Set.	171720/-
28	29263243	03/08/26	Complete Rotor using Zirconium Copper.	16 Nos.	213350/-
29	25261308	08/08/26	Set of contacts (silver TIP).	532 Set.	234170/-
30	25263565	17/08/26	Contact segment for 1500 Amps etc.	585 Nos.	208770/-
31	29263192A	20/08/26	Impellers for oil cooling unit.	443 Nos.	479840/-
32	11263436	24/08/26	Clevis For Modified Transition Screw Coupling.	318 Nos.	114340/-
33	29263086	26/08/26	Set of Switches 6A-250V.	650 Set.	338770/-
34	29263154	27/08/26	Set of Springloaded Switches for Pantograph.	1035 Set.	394010/-
35	29263297	01/09/26	MVB based graphical Driver display units.	104 Nos.	397620/-
36	29263300	07/09/26	Set of metallic Pipe etc.	40 Nos.	107620/-

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Terror suspect held in Davangere

DAVANGERE, DHNS: Davangere police on Tuesday arrested a 20-year-old youth suspected to have links with a terrorist organisation in Pakistan and handed him over to Tumakuru police.

According to the police, Suhail (20), who hails from Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh, was working as a painter in a factory in Harihar taluk. The operation was carried out based on a tip-off by a terror suspect who was arrested in Tumakuru on June 4.

On the instructions of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the district police conducted an operation in the wee hours of June 23 and arrested the suspect.

Link with Pakistan

After completing the preliminary interrogation, he was handed over to the Tumakuru police, sources said.

Information related to terrorist activities was found on the WhatsApp of the suspect. Sources explained that he had been in contact with many people in Pakistan.

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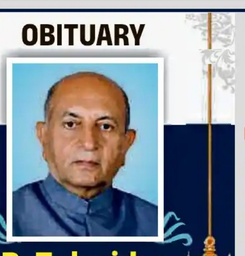

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Mobile : 9243120511

EYE ON SURPLUS: Basin farmers hope they will talk on balancing reservoir at TB dam event

Navali dam plan in focus as 3 CMs meet

VITTAL SHASTRI
KALABURAGI, DHNS:

The meeting of the chief ministers of Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil at Munirabad in Koppal district on Thursday has rekindled farmers' hope for the construction of Navali balancing reservoir.

They will jointly launch 33 newly installed crest gates in the Tungabhadra dam.

The Rs 51-crore renovation project replaced all spillway gates and chain links following the collapse of gate number 19 in August 2004, extending the dam's structural life by an estimated 50 years.

The Navali balancing reservoir project can be implemented only if AP and Telangana governments agree, as Tungabhadra river flows through these states too. The dam can store between 30-50 tmcft of water to ensure abundant water for farmers, compensating for 33 tmcft of silt accumulated in the 72-year-old TB dam.

Originally, it had a storage capacity of 133 tmcft. However, due to annual silt accumulation of at least half a tmcft, the capacity has dropped to 105.788 tmcft. So, much of the inflow goes to the river unused.

Although the reservoir received 606.64 tmcft of water in 2022, 114.58 tmcft in 2023, 253 tmcft in 2024 and 210 tmcft in 2025, the quantum could not be fully utilised.

A file photo of tractors parked near the Tungabhadra dam to transport silt removed recently. The CMs of Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are visiting the dam on Thursday, to inaugurate the newly installed crest gates.

Workers give final touches to the work on replacing the crest gates of the Tungabhadra reservoir at Hosapete in Vijayanagara district.

DAM DETAILS

1. Reservoir was built in 1953
2. Gate no. 19 washed away in 2024
3. All 33 crest gates replaced
4. Over Rs 50 cr spent on project
5. Dam's life extended by 50 yrs
6. Present storage - 105.788 tmcft

The Tungabhadra project is a lifeline for farmers in Koppal, Vijayanagara, Raichur and Ballari districts. For years, there has been a demand to construct a balancing reservoir near Navali in Kanakagiri taluk of Koppal district, to conserve surplus water.

A detailed project report was prepared for Rs 13,040 crore, but matter remained pending. Farmers' leader Chamarasa Malipatil said the government should take up repair work of 18 dilapidated structures, including aqueducts, bridges on Tungabhadra left bank canal for adequate supply to farmers.

"Silt (33 tmcft) can be removed by involving farmers. They can transport it for use in their fields, via thousands of tractors they own, if government arranges to remove silt during summer and pays diesel charges. This will help increase fertility of the fields," he said. Farmer leaders said the government failed to earmark funds for the Navali project and had not desilted sub-canals. They said farmers in tail-end of the Tungabhadra basin are deprived of water due to these factors.

> The chief ministers will have little time to discuss the Navali project during their visit. The state government should continue discussions with neighbouring states to implement the project.
> **CHAMARASA MALIPATIL,** Farmers' leader

Arguing that farmers from neighbouring states were illegally drawing water from river, they demanded that police and irrigation department officials should be empowered to initiate action against violators.

"The CMs will have little time to discuss the Navali project during their visit. The state should continue discussions with neighbouring states to implement the project," Malipatil said. Former minister Shivaraj Tangadagi said he was anticipating a favourable outcome from the meeting.

"We will submit proposals, including desilting of TB dam, Navali reservoir, linking of Tungabhadra and Krishna rivers to the dignitaries," he said.

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PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SYED ASLAM** and **SYED ASLAM SYED GAIBAN,** residing at # 87, Yelahanka Main Road, Doddabettahalli Layout, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru-560097, declare that the above names pertain to me only. Henceforth I shall be known as **SYED ASLAM** vide affidavit dated 18-06-2026 before notary H. Sridhar Rao, Bengaluru.

I, SAI PRASHANTH.K S/o.Anuradha Kamale R/a.B3-301 Brahmagiri BDA.Apartment Malagala`Outer RingRoad, Nagarbhavi Bengaluru 560072 have`changed my`Name`from K_SAI_PRASHANTH, SAI_PRASHANTH K, SAI PRASHANTH to`SAI PRASHANTH KAMBLE vide`affidavit dated:20.6.2026 before`Notary Devaraj.E Bengaluru

I, MOHAMMAD FAHAD SHOUKATH HUSSAIN Resding at 710, Ward. No.17, Zam zam Silk Industry, Bapujinagar, Chickballapur-562101, have changed my name to MOHAMMED FAHAD SHOUKATH HUSSAIN affidavit dated 18.06.2026 before notary K.H. Venkatappa, Chickballapur.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **POONAM KHATTAR,** W/o Ashok Sharma, residing at B-2016, Sobha Suncrest Apartments, Off Kanakapura Main Road, Manavarthekaval, Thalaghattapura, Bengaluru - 560062, have changed my name to **POORNIMA SHARMA** vide affidavit dated 07-05-2026 before notary L Puttaraju, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Ravi Kumar C Koppal,** R/at Flat No.302, 161, JJ Residency, Krishna Garden Layout, Mailsandra Village, Bengaluru-560059, have changed my minor son's name from **DIGANTHA RAVIKUMAR KOPPAL** to **DIGANTH R KOPPAL,** vide affidavit dt: 20.06.2026 before notary R. Ramesh, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **CHAITRA RAVIKUMARA,** residing at No.32212, 21st Floor, Prestige Jindal City, Manjunathanagar, Nagasandra, Bengaluru- 560073 have changed my name to **CHAITHRA BALANNA** vide affidavit dated 23-06-2026 sworn before notary B. Prasanna, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called as **CHAITHRA BALANNA** only.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RADHIKA PAI** D/o Ramakrishna Borkatte Pai, resident of No. 14, Hublikar Plots, Sadhankeri, Dharwad, Karnataka, I have changed my name from **RADHIKA VISHWAS BHAT** to **RADHIKA PAI,** vide affidavit dated 23.06.2026 Sworn before Advocate and Notary L B Gade, Dharwad. Hence forth I shall be called **RADHIKA PAI** Only.

I, ANURADHA M/o.Sai Prashanth Kamble`and Sangeetha Praveen R/a.B3-301`Brahmagiri BDA.Apartment Malagala Outer`Ring Road`Nagarbhavi Bengaluru 560072 have`changed my`Name from ANURADHA, ANURADHA_K, ANURADHA KAMALE VEERANNA`to ANURADHA_KAMALE vide`affidavit dated:20.6.2026 before`Notary Devaraj.E Bengaluru

I, CHRISTY Joseph S/O Lawrence D Mello born on 22-04-1998 residing at #3018, 6th Main Raja Kempagowda Extention, Channapatna , Bangalore south 562160 , have changed my name to Christy Joseph D Mello vide affidavit dated 26-05-2026 at Channapatna.

Cops rule out traffic congestion as cause for student missing NEET re-exam

Cite 'late departure from home, taking longer route to centre'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Just a few days after videos of National Eligibility cum Entrance Test - Undergraduate (NEET-UG) candidates breaking down the outside examination centres of the city went viral on social media, the Bengaluru Traffic Police have released a fact-check report stating that traffic congestion was not responsible for one candidate missing entry into the examination centre.

The clarification comes after allegations that a Congress rally and convention in the city had led to heavy traffic congestion, causing three candidates to reach their centre late and miss the examination.

What does Bengaluru Traffic Police say?

In a detailed fact-check shared on X, the Bengaluru Traffic Police said they reviewed CCTV footage, interacted with the candidate and parents, and conducted a route analysis.

According to the report, the candidate left home in R T Nagar at 12.57 pm, while the prescribed entry cut-off time for the examination centre was 1.30 pm.

The police said the candidate reached the examination centre area at 1.33 pm, three minutes after the gates had closed.

> "CCTV (Camera) analysis and route verification have established that the NEET candidate reached the examination centre after the stipulated cutoff time. Traffic conditions were found to be normal, and traffic police personnel facilitated movement wherever required. The delay was primarily due to late departure from residence and route selection,"
> **TRAFFIC POLICE**

Fact-check

- The candidate departed only 33 minutes before cut-off time.
- The candidate chose longer route despite shorter route being available.
- Traffic conditions were generally normal and no significant congestion attributable to public event.
- Traffic police personnel deployed on the route were seen facilitating movement wherever required.

What happened?

On June 21, the day of the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination, videos surfaced showing students in tears outside examination centres after they were denied entry for arriving after the prescribed cut-off time of 1.30 pm.

Parents of some candidates alleged that traffic congestion caused by a Congress rally delayed their journey to the centres.

The issue quickly caught public attention, with the opposition leaders accusing the Congress government of prioritising political events over students appearing for the high-stakes medical entrance examination.

NICE serves default notice to govt over BMIC project

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Escalating its long-running battle with the state government, Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise Ltd (NICE) has issued a formal notice of default to the Public Works Department (PWD), accusing it of systematically undermining the 1997 Framework Agreement (of the Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor-BMIC project).

The notice, dated May 6, 2026, has given the state government 60 days to set right the defaults, failing which it has reserved the right to initiate legal proceedings and seek compensation for damages.

Among other things, NICE Limited wants the government to execute the sale deeds where the compensation has already been paid, complete the pending acquisition proceedings, issue final notifications, transfer government lands, remove encroachments, defend the project in courts, convene meetings of the Empowered Committee and withdraw notices that interfere with its rights over the toll road.

According to the company, the Framework Agreement comprised a 111-km expressway between Bengaluru and Mysuru, a 41-km Peripheral Road around Bengaluru, a 9.1-km Link Road, five townships, etc.

A view of the tolled Nice Road in Bengaluru.

The government, it says, had committed to handing over 20,193 acres of land, including 6,956 acres of government land and 13,237 acres of privately acquired land.

"The state government from the year 2004 onwards has adopted an adversarial approach to the project and has spared no efforts to scuttle, stall and defeat the project by deliberately failing to comply with its obligations," the notice states.

A major part of the notice deals with land acquisition and transfer. NICE Ltd claimed that out of 6,956 acres of government land earmarked for the project, only 5,017 acres and 176 acres of forest land have been handed over.

The company alleged that despite depositing the agreed sale price for 2,029 acres as far back as 2012, sale deeds have been executed for only around 2 acres and 17 guntas.

On the private land front, the company said that while the project envisaged the acquisition of 13,237 acres, final notifications have been issued only for 4,840 acres. Of this, possession has been handed over for only 2,355 acres, awards have been passed for 2,317 acres and sale deeds executed for just 1,697 acres.

Ashok Kheny, managing director of NICE Ltd, said the company has been left with little option but to invoke the default clause.

"Investors are suing me for the delay. The company has followed all the rules, but the government has not performed its obligations despite giving assurances before the Supreme Court," Kheny told *DH*.

PWD's reply

A senior official from the Public Works Department said the government had formed a cabinet sub-committee in April 2025 to examine the project.

"It is currently not functional as several members of the panel are no longer ministers. We have requested the government to constitute a new committee," the official said.

HM attacking RSS to stay in news: Surya

BENGALURU, DHNS: Home Minister Priyank Kharge is training his guns on the RSS in order to stay in the news, alleged BJP Lok Sabha MP from Bangalore Tejasvi Surya on Tuesday.

Tejasvi Surya

Interacting with reporters in Bengaluru, Surya said, "He (Priyank) has a very good PR advisor. Someone has told him that, to be in the news every day, to enjoy wider circulation than the CM, and to make Rahul Gandhi happy, he should attack the RSS."

Pointing to Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh enticing companies to invest in their respective states, Surya added, "In the past two-three months, when companies in Karnataka have sought to leave the state citing problems with land acquisition, electricity trouble, et al, Tamil Nadu has extended an invitation to them. (AP Minister) Nara Lokesh is asking them to invest in Ananthapur. While these leaders are trying to attract industries to provide jobs to their youth, our leaders are talking about RSS each day. What are their priorities?"

Cops refute allegations by woman against DIG central range

Officer implicated husband in murder for realty deals, she says

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru rural police on Tuesday issued a clarification and refuted allegations made by a woman, who claimed that a senior IPS officer had falsely implicated her husband in a murder case in Bengaluru and was pressuring him to share real estate deals.

The woman has been identified as Sandhya, whose husband is Prasad Rao.

Rao, as per the woman, is involved in real estate projects in Anekal and Hosur.

She levelled allegations against S Girish, deputy inspector general of police (DIGP), central range, Karnataka.

The Bengaluru rural police, in a statement, said Rao's role was ascertained in the recent murder of gym trainer Vijay Kumar, 32, following technical, scientific investigation and interrogation of four arrested suspects.

Misleading probe

"The role of Prasad Rao and his associates has been ascertained during the investigation. The woman, who is Rao's wife, is making such allegations against a senior officer to mislead the investigation and to lower the morale of the police force. These allegations are far from the truth and the investigation into the case will continue," the Bengaluru rural police said in the statement.

The Bannerghatta police, who come under Bengaluru rural district, on Sunday announced the arrest of four people in connection with Kumar's murder.

Police sources told *DH* that Rao had given supari (contract) to kill Kumar.

Supari for Rs 25L

"Rao, who is currently absconding, had given a supari of Rs 25 lakh to a rowdy to eliminate Kumar as he was having a relationship with his daughter. He will be arrested," the sources said.

The woman, in the video addressing Home Minister Priyank Kharge, had alleged that her husband Prasad Rao had been falsely implicated in the murder case.

She alleged that the DIG was pressuring her husband to share profits and wanted to make him a partner in Rao's real estate deals.

'Under pressure'

"My husband has been silent and wasn't responsive for a month. When asked further, he said DIG Girish was demanding a share in real estate business and partnerships and that he was under extreme pressure," the woman said.

She claimed that she learnt that Rao, who has been missing, was fixed in a murder case by the Bannerghatta police.

Appeal to home minister

"My husband is not such a person. The home minister should please safeguard my husband and family".

App-based verification of Gruha Lakshmi scheme on cards

CAG flags irregularities in scheme's implementation

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Women and Child Development Department is preparing a statewide mobile app-based verification drive to revalidate all Gruha Lakshmi beneficiaries and ensure that only eligible state voters continue to receive benefits under the government's flagship guarantee programme.

The move comes after the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report flagged "lacunae" in the implementation of the scheme that provides Rs 2,000 to nearly 1.22 crore women heads of households every month.

CAG pointed to instances that posed a "risk of potential irregularities", and said the department had "failed" to submit a compliance report based on a field-level verification.

Meanwhile, the proposed verification will be carried out jointly by the Women and Child Development Department, Rural Development Panchayat Raj Department and the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), after the Cabinet approval.

A mobile application (app) will capture and validate beneficiary details, including Gruha Lakshmi ID, ration card number, Aadhaar number, voter ID, husband's name and family particulars.

The exercise will also ascertain whether beneficiaries are income tax or GST payees and whether any family member is a government employee, categories that render applicants ineligible for the scheme.

"This time, we will also validate voter IDs as electoral rolls are updated annually and provide more dynamic data for verification," the official said.

The proposed verification of the government's flagship scheme Gruha Lakshmi, which provides Rs 2,000 to women heads of families, will be carried out jointly by the women and child development department, rural development & panchayat raj department and Greater Bengaluru Authority, after the Cabinet approval.

The exercise will ascertain whether beneficiaries are income tax or GST payees and whether any family member is a government employee, categories that render applicants ineligible for the scheme.

CAG's data analysis revealed that 19,020 beneficiaries shared common bank account numbers, with Rs 60.69 crore disbursed through more than 3.03 lakh transactions.

Another 10.06 lakh beneficiary records showed multiple changes in bank account details. Further, Rs 46.52 crore was disbursed through 23,262 transactions where bank account numbers were not captured in the database.

The auditor had sought details of deleted beneficiaries, complaints received and records of ineligible beneficiaries. However, the department failed to furnish the information.

The Women and Child Development Department officials, speaking to *DH*, maintained that the anomalies did not indicate fraud.

"Beneficiaries often changed bank accounts to prevent automatic deductions towards loan repayments or recoveries. Multiple beneficiaries sharing the same bank account number is common among members of self-help groups, NGOs or family members operating common accounts. Some women give their siblings bank account numbers to prevent their husbands from withdrawing the money by force," said the official.

It's Congress Lakshmi, ridicules Ashoka

Opposition leader R Ashoka mocked the "Congress model" of guarantees and said, "It is Congress Lakshmi to fill the pockets of Congress leaders. It is a massive loot of taxpayers' money. It is not a technical error, but a systematic fraud. Congress is afraid to give details to CAG for audit, as it is treating women as vote banks and misusing funds in their name."

Pvt firm in power supply: Bescom files objection with KERC

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS:

Opposing the entry of Tata Power Company Limited (TPCL) into power distribution sector, Bescom has filed a formal objection with Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC).

According to sources, Bescom has pointed out that TPCL's application lacks clarity on establishment of a dedicated distribution network which is mandatory according to Electricity Act, 2003.

Bescom has opined that allowing TPCL to operate will affect operations of Bescom adversely.

It has prepared a resource adequacy plan and entered into long-term power purchase agreements (PPAs) to meet the demand. Entry of a new distribution company means that these purchases might have no consumers.

"Many consumers might migrate to new private company and this will affect our operations. Also, we are told that TPCL plans to operate by making short term market purchases, unlike Bescom which enters into long-term PPAs," one of the sources said.

The biggest concern that Bescom has raised is regarding cherry-picking of consumers as against Bescom which has social obligations to serve all categories of consumers.

"It is obvious that private companies will eye for areas with industrial and high-value consumers. If these consumers shift to private companies, Bescom will be left with low-value consumers," a source privy of the objection filed by Bescom said.

The KERC will now consider all objections and allow Tata Power Company to reply to these objections. The decision to award a license will be taken only after the response and any further communications.

The entry of private companies to the sector has been widely opposed by various sectors, including farmers.

Federation of Karnataka Electricity Board Employees' Unions had stated that privatisation was an anti-employee move and was against the interests of citizens.

They had opined that it will result in job losses for government employees and the move could derail welfare schemes like Gruha Jyothi and subsidy for agriculture pumpsets announced by the government for the poor and farmers.

The Karnataka State Licensed Electrical Contractors Association has said that there are close to 69,000 licensed electrical contractors in state and 70% of them might lose their jobs if TPCL enters the market.

Ramesh Jigajinagi's 'expletive' on RSS goes viral

VIJAYAPURA, DHNS: A purported audio of BJP Lok Sabha member Ramesh Jigajinagi using expletives on the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh (RSS), went viral in social media.

Speaking to a person who called him over the phone, the MP is heard saying "RSS is very dangerous. They are..... People who opposed the RSS have not survived." The caller is heard questioning Jigajinagi on his remarks against Home Minister Priyank Kharge.

Speaking to *DH*, the MP said that the RSS knows him very well. "Some people have made a failed attempt to create a rift between me and RSS. I only gave advice to the caller," he said.

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Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh
In the august presence of
Suresh Kumar Khanna
Minister, Finance and Parliamentary Affairs, Uttar Pradesh
and other dignitaries
24th June, 2026 Time: 12:00 Noon The Leela Palace, Bengaluru
Uttar Pradesh GCC Policy 2024
Up to 80% Front-End Land Subsidy
100% Stamp Duty Exemption
25% of ECI Capital Subsidy
Up to 20% OPEX Subsidy
5% Interest Subsidy on Term Loan
Up to 50% CoE & Startup Ideation Support
Existing GCCs Powering Growth in Uttar Pradesh
Adobe Microsoft SAMSUNG NXP NOKIA QUALCOMM S&P Ameriprise Financial
MetLife TE connectivity LG GILEAD ERICSSON Prudential AML RIGHTSOURCE
Noida-Established GCC Hub | Lucknow-Emerging GCC Hub
THINK GCC
THINK U.P.
Ease of Doing Business
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Information and Public Relations Department, U.P.

'I have no ego issues with CM'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Tuesday said that he has no ego issues with Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

Speaking to media about the invitation by the chief minister to discuss about Bidadi Township issue, Kumaraswamy said, "I have already replied to his invitation. Since I have pre-occupied programmes on June 26, I have requested him to arrange a meeting on June 27, any time he is comfortable. But it should be with the farmers and not at the Vidhana Souda. I have no ego issues with the chief minister, it is only a farmers' issue and providing a solution for it will take hardly 10 minutes for the government."

Kumaraswamy stated that it is not a question of challenge or counter challenge. "The government claims that 70% of the farmers had agreed to give their land. However, farmers state that 75% of them had not agreed. This has to be discussed in their presence," he said.

Ashoka demands full-time agri minister, cites DH report on crop loss

HUBBALLI, DHNS: Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka on Tuesday said that the Congress government should appoint a dedicated Agriculture Minister.

Citing the report 'Crop loss jitters as sowing at just 30% of target in state', published in *DH* on Tuesday, Ashoka called on the government to put in place emergency drought-relief measures before irreparable damage was done.

"Karnataka is staring at a full-blown agricultural crisis. The state has received 43% below normal rainfall. Sowing has been completed only across 30% of the targeted area. Crops are drying up, the farmers are in distress, and the Kharif season is heading towards disaster," Ashoka wrote on 'X'.

Calling out CM D K Shivakumar for not appointing a full-strength Cabinet, Ashoka said, "While farmers battle drought and uncertainty, the Congress is immersed in endless factional fights, bargaining over ministerial berths and power-sharing."

Cross-voting deepens NDA rift, casts shadow on alliance future

ANALYSIS

Pact a hurdle for leaders where BJP-JD(S) are direct rivals

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

The shocking cross-voting by 11 BJP and JD(S) MLAs and one invalid vote by a BJP MLA in the June 18 MLC elections has widened the gulf between the NDA alliance partners, which could potentially affect alliance dynamics in future.

Differences reignited right from the day of the polls, when both parties had contradictory claims on the number of cross-voters from their fold.

While BJP claimed there were only three cross-votes and one invalid vote from its side, JD(S) estimated seven cross-votes from BJP.

A preliminary analysis of the voting pattern did not conclusively determine whether the four MLAs allotted by BJP to JD(S) voted for the regional party.

While BJP initially claimed that all four votes were transferred to JD(S), the regional party's leaders have vehemently denied this.

Now, BJP seems to have conceded that there were likely more cross-voters from its fold. A source close to the saffron party said there may have been 6-7 cross-votes from BJP.

Past differences

Speaking to *DH*, a JD(S) MLC explained that the BJP didn't allot any MLAs to them despite him explicitly asking the BJP state president and leader of the Opposition to mention MLAs allotted to them.

The cross-voting fiasco has deepened fissures that already existed within the alliance.

JD(S) state president H D Kumaraswamy was reportedly upset when JD(S) was only offered three of the 28 seats in Karnataka during the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

In August 2024, differences were visible when BJP supposedly planned the 'Mysuru Chalo' rally seeking then chief minister Siddaramaiah's resignation in the alleged MUDA site-allotment scam without consulting JD(S).

The regional party had expressed reservations about BJP's "unilateral" decisions in deciding Council election candidates in April 2026 and Rajya Sabha election candidates recently, when JD(S) supremo and former PM H D Deve Gowda was overlooked.

Potential trouble

There seems to be a high probability that some MLAs who cross-voted from BJP and JD(S) are from constituencies where the fight is bipolar between the NDA partners, and may thus be seeking political continuation by 'shifting to Congress'.

Even otherwise, JD(S) leaders in north Karnataka and BJP leaders in old Mysuru are in a tight spot, as alliance considerations and larger interests may potentially sacrifice their personal ambitions.

Speaking to *DH*, senior journalist Shivaji Ganeshan felt cross-voting would not disturb the future of the BJP-JD(S) alliance.

"The alliance is likely to continue since the common enemy for both BJP and JD(S) is Congress. National BJP leaders will be keen on weakening Congress in Karnataka".

Ganeshan pointed out that the Vokkaligas were traditional Congress supporters — except when Deve Gowda was in his political prime — and felt that D K Shivakumar's ascent may see a gradual shift of Vokkaliga votes back to the Congress.

BJP top brass pulls up state leaders over cross-voting

Nabin expresses displeasure on lack of precautions

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The BJP top brass on Tuesday pulled up Karnataka state leaders for failing to prevent cross-voting by party MLAs during the recent Legislative Council elections and indicated that appropriate action will be taken against those responsible, sources said.

A delegation comprising Leader of Opposition R Ashoka, state BJP president B Y Vijayendra, party Assembly whip Doddanagouda Hanamagouda Patil and Legislative Council whip Ravi Kumar met BJP national president Nitin Nabin here. BJP Karnataka in-charge General Secretary Radha Mohan Das Agarwal was also present.

Sources said Nabin expressed displeasure over the lack of precautions to stop cross-voting, which caused significant embarrassment for the party.

He asked state leaders to ensure better coordination and unity in future and work as a team without internal divisions. The meeting also reviewed overall party organisation and emphasised the goal of winning the 2028 Assembly elections.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Ashoka said the high command has taken the issue of cross-voting very seriously.

"The national president told us to leave the matter to the leadership. They will teach a lesson to those who betrayed the party," he said.

Ashoka added that Nabin gave clear directions to strengthen the organisation and maintain complete unity. "The discussions were good. The national president gave valuable suggestions," he noted.

The ruling Congress won five of the seven MLC seats last week, while the BJP secured two and JD(S) drew a blank. Sources said cross-voting by some BJP and JD(S) legislators helped Congress secure 151 votes — 11 more than the expected 140.

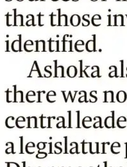
When asked if the national leadership has identified the cross-voters, Ashoka said the high command did not share specific details and asked the state unit to provide whatever information it has.

Vijayendra added that central leaders have their own sources of information and that those involved would be identified.

Ashoka also clarified that there was no discussion with central leaders about holding a legislature party meeting at Dharmasthala.

He said the proposal has been dropped following consultations with senior leaders. "Let Dharmasthala remain a holy place. The party will handle the cross-voting issue internally," he added.

R ASHOKA
Leader of Opposition

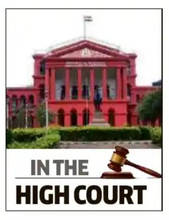


"The national president told us to leave the matter to the leadership. They will teach a lesson to those who betrayed the party.

HC orders notice to govt in plea against internal quota notification

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday ordered notice to state government in a petition filed by Confederation of Untouchable Nomadic Communities of Karnataka and others challenging the May 8 internal reservation notification.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj has directed the respondents to file their responses.



The petitioners contended that the May 8 internal reservation notification bracketed the most backward untouchables in Category C by providing only 4.5% reservation as against 5.25% reservation granted to other dominant castes under Scheduled Castes category in both Group A and B.

According to the petitioners, the government issued the May 8 notification despite the challenge to the earlier notification, issued on August 25, 2025, on the same issue pending before the court.

"The May 8 order perpetuates the same defects and proceeds on arbitrary basis since the state government has undertaken sub-classification within the Scheduled Castes without establishing any objective, rational or scientifically ascertainable criteria regarding inter se backwardness among the constituent communities.

In the absence of any empirical data or intelligible differentia justifying such classification, the exercise undertaken by the state government results in irrational and discriminatory division among the Scheduled Castes in the state of Karnataka," the petition stated.

The petition further stated that this would create hostile discrimination between similarly situated Scheduled Castes communities and harms equitable distribution of reservation benefits among the most disadvantaged sections.

On these grounds, the petitioners submitted that the May 8 notification is illegal, arbitrary and in violation of Articles 14, 15(4) and 16(4) of the constitution.

CWMA defers decision on water release, advises judicious use

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) on Tuesday reviewed the prevailing water situation in the Cauvery basin, including reservoir storages, inflows and ongoing agriculture activities, but stopped short of issuing fresh release orders.

CWMA chairman S K Haldar decided to wait for a few more weeks to assess the revival of monsoon before taking any major decision.

In the meeting attended by officials from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala, the Authority directed basin states to use the stored water judiciously, primarily for drinking water needs.

India meteorological department (IMD) officials informed the meeting that good rainfall was expected in the coming days, sources told *DH*.

Karnataka informed the Authority that delayed rainfall and lean inflows had resulted in significantly lower storage in its reservoirs and correspondingly reduced outflows.

TN seeks water

The state pointed out that similar conditions prevailed in north Karnataka and parts of Maharashtra, largely due to lingering effects of El Niño.

However, Tamil Nadu urged the CWMA to direct Karnataka to release 9.19 tmcft of water for June quota and 31.24 tmcft in July.

The state highlighted that water realised at Biligundlu up to June 22, 2026, stood at only 2.662 tmcft against the expected 6.737 tmcft, leaving a deficit of 4.077 tmcft.

Tamil Nadu strongly opposed Karnataka's submission regarding low storage, alleging that the upper riparian state had utilised excess water during summer months (February to May) beyond permitted limits.

Growing clamour for berths delays expansion of Shivakumar's Cabinet

BENGALURU, DHNS

The expansion of Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's Cabinet, which is functioning at 41% capacity, may get pushed to July even as lawmakers across social groups and regions are mounting tremendous pressure to join the government.

The Cabinet, which currently has 14 members against a strength of 34, was slated for expansion after the June 18 Legislative Council election.

This process has now been pushed to next month citing top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's unavailability, sources said.

Shivakumar himself conceded that it is "difficult to make a political decision" on who should be inducted into his Cabinet.

Addressing a delegation of the All Karnataka Sunni Mashaik Council, which met him Monday seeking a ministerial berth for senior MLC Saleem Ahmed, Shivakumar said several communities had made such demands for their leaders. "Vokkaligas, Lingayats and members of the Christian community are suggesting one name each. In such a situation, it becomes difficult to make a political decision," he said.

Shivakumar said the Lambanis and Marathas also want representation in the Cabinet.

"Mahantesh Koujalagi, Appaji Nadagouda, Shivanand Patil, Yashavanthraygoud V Patil and J S Patil are asking. I hope you understand our situation. Sometimes, some people have to make sacrifices," the CM added.

According to Shivakumar, there is "confusion" in the party on how many MLCs should be inducted as there are a large number of MLAs. At present, Urban Development Minister Dr Yathindra Siddaramaiah is the only MLC in the Cabinet.

Shivakumar pointed to the Congress high command and said: "My job is to implement the list (of ministers) they provide."

The Cabinet now has only one Muslim, Health Minister U T Khader. There is pressure to induct two or three more. Besides Ahmed, the other options being discussed are Rizwan Arshad, Tanveer Sait and Zameer Ahmed Khan.

Shivakumar is facing pressure from lawmakers who have never been ministers. Former chief minister Siddaramaiah is reportedly batting for A S Ponnanna. Other first-timers like Ashok Rai, K S Basavanthappa and Basavaraj Shivaganga are in the race. Meanwhile, seniors like H K Patil, Dr H C Mahadevappa and Dinesh Gundu Rao are also trying to re-enter the Cabinet, sources said.

Among women, former minister Laxmi Hebbalkar, Annapoorna and Nayana Motamma are being discussed as possible inductees. "In the case of Annapoorna, her husband E Tukaram (Bellary MP) has a claim. He resigned as a minister to contest the Lok Sabha election," a source said.

Government of India

Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer and Competent Authority

National Highway-150A (Hosamane cross Pandavapura Section)
National Highways, PWD Compound, K.R. Circle, Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3D(1) and (2) of the National Highways Act, 1956 (Act 48 of 1956) and the Amendment Act of 1997, the Government of India has issued a final 3(D) land acquisition notification via its Gazette Notification No: **S.O. 622(E) dated 07.02.2020 and SO 2834(E) dated 15.07.2021.** This notification has been issued for the acquisition of lands in **Rangapura village of Pandavapura Taluk Mandya District, Karnataka State, for the purpose of construction (widening to 2/4 lanes, and others) of the highway from Km. 544.200 to Km. 594.000 of the Hosamane cross Pandavapura section of National Highway No. 150A.**

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 3G(1), (2), (4), (7)(a)(b)(c) (d) of the National Highways Act, 1956, and Schedule 1 of the RFCTLARR Act, 2013 (Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act), the award of compensation has been determined for the lands specified in the schedule.

In connection with this, multiple intimation letters have already been issued by this office to the khatedars of the survey numbers mentioned in the notification, instructing them to submit the required documents and claim their compensation. However, the under mentioned landowners have not yet submitted their documents to this office and have not claimed their land compensation till date.

Therefore, it is hereby informed through this notice to present all necessary certified documents to this office within 15 days from the date of issuance of this notification and receive the compensation. Failing which, having no other alternative, the amount will be deposited ex-parte in the jurisdictional District Court / appropriate legal action will be initiated.

Sd/- Special Land Acquisition Officer and Competent Authority
National Highway-150A (Hosamane cross Pandavapura Section)
National Highways, PWD Compound, K.R. Circle, Bangalore.

DISTRICT: MANDYA TALUK: PANDAVAPURA VILLAGE: RANGAPURA

Sl No	Survey No	Extent in Guntas Regular	Extent in Guntas Additional	Land Owner Name
1.	30/1	-	0-01¼	Jayamma W/o Narasimhachari
2	30/10	-	0-01	T Jayanthi W/o S Vijaykumar
3	30/11	0-04	0-00¾	MR Jyothi W/o Siddaraju
4	30/2	0-04	0-00½	Narasamma W/o Bolegowda
5	30/5	-	0-01	TN Raviprakash S/o Narasimhegowda
6	30/9	-	0-01	MR Jyothi W/o Siddaraju
7	30/7	0-00½	-	Rangegowda S/o Thimmegowda
8	64/1	0-02½	0-01	Devamma W/o late Venkataramane gowda. N V Chethana kumara W/o MR Sathisha
9	64/2	0-05	0-01¼	Sakamma W/o Girigowda
10	30/12	-	0-01½	Swamichari S/o late Krishnamurthachari, Rudresha S/o late Krishnamurthachari

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (Building Maintenance & Transport), Ground Floor, Annex Building-2, GBA & BCCC HO Premises, NR Square, Bengaluru–560002

No.: EE(B.M&T)/TEND/03/2026-27 **Date: 22.06.2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(TWO COVER SYSTEM) (Through KPPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer (Building Maintenance & Transport), BCCC invites proposals through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from eligible bidders for **"Rent, Operate and Maintain Ground Floor Shop No. 18/2, Corporation Building, Residency Road, Bengaluru".**

All interested bidders shall submit their Technical and Commercial / Financial bids electronically through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).

The tender schedule is as mentioned below:

Subject	**Rent, Operate and Maintain Ground Floor Shop No. 18/2, Corporation Building, Residency Road, Bengaluru.**
Tender Notification No.	**EE(B.M&T)/TEND/03/2026-27**
Date from which bid document is ready for download through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)	**29.06.2026 up to 11:00 a.m.**
Date of Pre-bid meeting and venue	**04.07.2026 at 3:00 p.m. Office of the Executive Engineer (B.M&T), Ground Floor, Annex Building-2, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002**
Last date for seeking clarification if any	**03.07.2026 at 3:00 p.m.**
Last date and time for uploading of tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal platform	**09.07.2026 upto 5:00 p.m.**
Date and time of opening of tenders: Technical bid & Technical Evaluation	**10.07.2026 at 5:00 p.m.**
Date and time of opening of tenders: Commercial bid of Technically qualified bidders (if possible)	**Immediately after the uploading of Technical bid evaluation**
Contact person for queries	**Executive Engineer (Building maintenance & Transport) Mobile: 9480688211, Email: eemped.bbmp@gmail.com**
Place of opening of tenders and address for communication	**Office of the Executive Engineer (B.M&T), Ground Floor, Annex Building-2, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002**
EMD Amount	**Rs. 1,00,000 paid in KPPP Portal**

Note: Completed tender shall be uploaded through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal system only in the manner described under instructions to Tenderers of RFP Documents on or before the last date & time stipulated.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Building Maintenance & Transport), Bengaluru Central City Corporation

Daughter, live-in partner kill her parents, sister; flee

Murder, From Flap

While Somasundar was being rushed to the hospital, he told the ASI that his daughter Shwetha and her live-in partner Kenneth tried to kill him by attacking him with a sharp weapon. He also mentioned that his wife and younger daughter were also attacked in the flat. Somasundar succumbed to his injuries in the hospital.

When the police rushed to the flat, they found it locked from the outside. They managed to break open the lock and after entering, found Muthulakshmi lying dead in a pool of blood in the bathroom with stab injuries and Supriya lay motionless in the hall with multiple stab wounds. Based on a complaint filed by the ASI, KR Puram police registered a suo motu case and have initiated an investigation.

Preliminary investigations revealed that Shwetha had been living with Kenneth in a rented flat at Sai Green Apartment in Dominic Layout, Seegehalli, for the past two months. On Monday, her parents and younger sister had reportedly visited the flat where an argument is believed to have broken out.

Investigators suspect that Shwetha and Kenneth had conspired to eliminate the family members. The couple allegedly attacked the three victims with knives, inflicting multiple stab injuries, before fleeing. A senior police officer said Shwetha's parents had strongly opposed her relationship and her decision to live with Kenneth, leading to frequent disputes within the family. "The suspects appear to have planned the murders in advance and executed them after luring the victims to the flat," the officer said.

The police said teams have been dispatched to neighbouring states to trace the suspects. The bodies have been shifted for postmortem examination. The final rites are expected to be conducted after relatives arrive from Chennai on Wednesday, the police said.

'Mythology-heavy' NCERT book under fire

'Mythology-heavy', From Flap

It further said, "There are no lessons reflecting Karnataka's cultural and social diversity. The folklore, literature and life of coastal Karnataka, North Karnataka, Malenadu, and Old Mysore regions are missing. For a 6th standard child, there are no activities, texts, pictures, or stories suited to their curiosity and age. The narration is dull and preachy."

V P Niranjanaradhya, developmental educationist, questioned the textbook named after Krishna. "First of all, why is the book named Krishna? As part of the imposition of Indian Knowledge Tradition under NEP 2020, NCERT has started pushing mythology, religious tales and God-centric narratives into education," he opined.

"Not just the Class 6, for Class 3 it is Mridula. What is this? Isn't this a plan to saffronise the textbooks? Karnataka's identity lies in the thoughts of Pampa, Kuvempu, Karanth and Basavanna. But NCERT has named it 'Krishna'. Ignoring local intellectual and cultural traditions, NCERT has moved towards God-religion politics, which is condemnable," Niranjanaradhya stated.

Academicians pointed out that in the lesson 'Health is Wealth', while talking about food, it indirectly pushes the narrative of 'satvik food'.

"While educating students about balanced food, the picture of the plate has only rotti, vegetables, milk and fruits. Fish, eggs and meat are missing. This is a brainwashing tactic to make children believe satvik food means only rotti, milk and vegetables," Niranjanaradhya alleged.

A new definition of a balanced diet has been given, another senior academician said.

"For our body to get energy, balanced foods like milk, greens, vegetables, fruits, and pulses are necessary. These should be part of our daily food," the lesson reads.

"Then, where do eggs, fish, chicken, mutton, coastal children's 'fish', North Karnataka's jowar rotti with groundnut oil go? This is a deliberate strategy to sideline non-vegetarian food. Writing that only vegetarian food is 'balanced' is politicising children's food plates. This is not education, it is cultural terrorism."

Among the academicians' demands include compulsorily teaching of Kannada as first or second language in keeping with the Kannada Language Learning Act 2015, CBSE.

They argued that there are already Savi Kannada, Siri Kannada and Tili Kannada textbooks. Tili Kannada, which was earlier used as a second or third language, should be used as R3, they said.

The "hurried order" to use this same R3 textbook prepared for Class 6 as R3 textbook for Class 9 from this year must be withdrawn, they demanded. The demanded an explanation from NCERT on why the book is named 'Krishna' and why was DSERT, the academic authority for textbook preparation and educational work in Karnataka, was not involved in this process.

They also demanded that in the 'Balanced Diet' lesson, pictures and references to eggs, fish and meat must be included and the book reprinted. The book's name must be changed to one that fits Kannada identity, they said.

Pune man, who fell off fort, was...

Pune murder, From Flap

In fact, in the first week of June, Ketan and Siya headed for Bali for a pre-wedding shoot. However, they had to return from Mumbai airport as Ketan's passport was stolen. After their Bali trip was cancelled, they went to Lohagad Fort on June 14 for a trek and Siya allegedly tried to kill Ketan but failed. "She pushed Ketan but he got hold of a nearby tree. She told Ketan that she pushed him to save him from a snake," Ketan's father Devichand Agarwal has told the police.

After Ketan's death, the family connected the dots and told the police the chain of events. During the June 18 trek, Ketan and Siya were accompanied by Chetan. In fact, Siya convinced Ketan to come to the Lohagad Fort for her birthday with friends. Ketan fell into the trap and Siya and Chetan pushed him from the fort.

"The victim was a seasoned trekker, so the probability of an accidental death was reduced," Gill told reporters. "We examined technical evidence, spoke to witnesses, we have information from confidential sources, we examined the call details and Internet Protocol Detail Records and recorded the statements. We found discrepancies," he said. Investigations revealed that Siya was in a relationship with Chetan and did not want to marry Ketan. The families of Siya and Chetan were in business around in the Market Yard area.

Centre sounds kharif alarm amid 42% rain deficit

Crops, From Page 1

Of these, 111 districts, including 20 in Maharashtra, have been classified as "most vulnerable" due to irrigation cover of less than 25%. Another 76 districts fall in the "medium vulnerable" category with 25-50% irrigation, while 128 districts with better infrastructure are considered "least vulnerable."

The Minister stressed that sowing should begin only after 75-100 mm of cumulative rainfall to ensure adequate soil moisture and prevent seed damage. "We will not let farm fields remain empty," he asserted.

Seed and fertiliser availability is adequate, he added.

Reservoir levels are currently higher than last year, though declining. States have been asked to use water judiciously and desilt ponds, streams, and check dams under rural development programmes. The Centre has urged wider enrolment in crop insurance and Kisan Credit Cards.

Chouhan emphasised that the government has prepared comprehensive contingency plans.

States have been directed to promote pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals, and short-duration, climate-resilient crop varieties that require less water. Farmers are being encouraged to adopt crop diversification, inter-cropping, and mixed farming to mitigate risks.

An El Niño Monitoring Cell and a Crop Weather Watch Group have been set up in New Delhi for real-time tracking. States have been instructed to establish control rooms and appoint nodal officers.

The 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been directed to intensify outreach through SMS, WhatsApp, and other channels. Chouhan appealed to the farmers not to panic, assuring them that the government is fully prepared.

He said production estimates assume normal conditions, but efforts are being made to prevent any major decline. The situation, he noted, should be turned into an opportunity for greater water conservation and crop diversification.

Union govt tightens foreign fund rules for NGOs

Foreign funds, From Page 1

It can only select the activities from a 'Schedule' introduced in the FCRA Rules, identifying 105 activities permitted to seek foreign funds — 16 under religious, 18 under cultural, 19 under economic, 22 under educational, and 30 under social.

NGOs, which already have the FCRA licence, should submit details to the government within a year. Under the religious purposes, an association can seek permission to collect foreign funds for construction, renovation, and maintenance of religious places, religious education to promote devotional music, interfaith dialogue, burial and cremation ground development and its maintenance, and protection of sacred relics, shrines, and archaeological religious heritage.

However, the rules make it clear that three purposes — preservation of institutions engaged in study, documentation and preservation of religious philosophy, conduct of religious education, satsangs, discourses and mediation retreats, and documentation and revival of indigenous beliefs and tribal faith practices — must be carried out "excluding proselytisation".

In the cultural sphere, NGOs can use foreign funds for the promotion of contemporary arts inspired by Indian traditions, excluding political and ideological content, visual arts, sculpture, cinema, photography, and design. Research in cultural anthropology, ethnography, and folk studies, and support for classical Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi, Carnatic music, Hindustani music, and Yakshagana, among others, can also get foreign funds.

NGOs can also collect donations from abroad for educating children of migrant workers, refugees, and nomadic tribes, and value-based and ethics education in schools. The amendments have broadened the definition of "key functionary in relation to a person other than an individual" to cover company directors, partners in firms, trustees, the 'Karta' of a Hindu Undivided Family, and any person who has control over the management of the association.

Attempting to prevent inactive NGOs from holding onto the licences, the government has introduced a minimum spending limit of Rs 10 lakh of foreign contribution over the last two financial years. For an NGO to renew its registration or avoid cancellation, it must have spent the amount of foreign contribution over the last two years on its chosen activities. The NGOs receiving foreign funds under "prior permission", the second or any later instalment of funds will only be released after it has utilised at least 75% of the previous instalment. A field inquiry will be conducted to verify the utilisation.

Metro snag triggers rush-hour chaos

Metro snag, From Flap

BMRCL made announcements inside trains and at stations to keep passengers informed.

Meanwhile, frustration grew outside metro stations as passengers scrambled to get autos, cabs and other transport. Ride apps either declined bookings or took long to process them, while autos plying on the street demanded exorbitant fares. Many auto drivers demanded Rs 200 per person for a ride towards Majestic.

Some commuters shared cabs and autos. Rishika Kumari was among those who shared an auto with another commuter. "I live 15 km away and auto drivers are demanding Rs 450. I found other commuters haggling with auto drivers for the same locality, so we are sharing an auto." The situation worsened by 8 pm as authorities further suspended train services between Indiranagar and MG Road. At press time, operations had not been restored. Many commuters who got off at Indiranagar said they had to change up to three buses to reach destinations such as Magadi Road, Deepanjalinagar and Mysuru Road.

The traffic police deployed additional personnel near metro stations to ensure public safety, security and smooth movement of commuters.

Frequent disruptions

Metro train disruptions are common in Bengaluru, with Purple and Yellow lines encountering suspensions in recent times. In late 2025, the Yellow Line faced nearly a dozen disruptions due to technical snags. In 2024, the Purple Line services faced delays on nearly half a dozen occasions.

Bangalore Central MP P C Mohan called repeated disruptions "unacceptable," saying a city that depends on the metro cannot endure recurring technical failures. He urged the BMRCL to review maintenance standards and fix systemic lapses.

ED raids Rajesh Exports in B'luru, Mumbai

ED raid, From Page 1

The agency said it was examining if about Rs 3,000 crore of trade receivables were set off against "fictitious" gold imports, delivery of which was "suspicious".

The ED is also probing if the company ostensibly invested more than Rs 1,000 crore in African gold mines, as the said investment was "not reflected" in the books of accounts of any of its subsidiaries. Another charge being investigated by the ED is that around Rs 3,000 crore of trade receivables and payables have been set off against 4-5 foreign entities with "dubious" credentials.

SEBI barred Rajesh Mehta, promoter and executive chairman of REL from accessing the securities market and alleged large-scale financial misstatements at the company.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast June 24: Rainfall to occur at few places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	29.2	20.8	TR
Bidar	37.6	23.4	11.2
Vijayapura	35	22.6	00
Dharwad	30.8	20.8	TR
Haveri	31.2	20.8	1.8
Kalaburagi	39.4	25	00
Raichur	39	25	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	30.9	22	73.8
Karwar	30.4	22.5	62.6
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	29.1	23	31.3

INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	26.7	20.5	30
Bengaluru	29.9	21.5	TR
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	32	22.5	00
Davangere	33	20.3	00
Hassan	NA	NA	NA
Mysuru	31.2	20.8	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	31	22.2	5.2
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	38.4	26.8	00
Kolkata	29.6	27	03
Mumbai	34.6	25.1	12
Chennai	36.2	27.8	00
Pune	32	24.5	00
Hyderabad	36.3	22.2	11
Th'puram	30.6	24.2	0.4

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL Old Airport Road, Bangalore - 560 017
(Phone: 080 25084156, 4184)
CORRIGENDUM - III

Sl.No	Description	Details
1	Name of work	Horizontal Extension of CATVAC Cleanroom at ISITE Campus, Marathahalli, Bengaluru (Civil, Electrical, Airconditioning and other allied works).
2	E-Tender Notice No.	URSC/C&MG/C/C/01/2026-27 dated: 08/04/2026
3	Estimated cost put to tender	₹ 491.72 Lakhs
4	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	Extended upto 16.30 hrs on 03/07/2026
5	Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Up to 14.30 hrs. on 09/07/2026
6	Due date and time of opening of tenders	After 14.31 hrs on 09/07/2026

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.

Sd/-,
Group Director, C&MG, URSC

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL Old Airport Road, Bangalore - 560 017
(Phone: 080 25084156, 4184)
CORRIGENDUM - I

Sl.No	Description	Details
1	Name of work	Vertical Extension of Vehicle Deployment Cell and allied works at Main Campus, URSC, Vimanapura, Bengaluru – 560017.
2	E-Tender Notice No.	URSC/C&MG/C/M/15/2026-27 dated: 02/06/2026
3	Estimated cost put to tender	₹ 23.83 Lakhs
4	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	Extended upto 16.30 hrs on 30/06/2026
5	Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Up to 14.30 hrs. on 03/07/2026
6	Due date and time of opening of tenders	After 14.31 hrs on 09/07/2026

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.

Sd/-,
Group Director, C&MG, URSC

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN - UO4010KA2002SGC030438)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Platform)

BESCOM invites tender against Enquiry No./Indent No. BESCOM/2026-27/IND0271 for Supply of 1.1 KV Class HR (Heat Resistant) PVC Insulated & Unsheathed Aluminium Wires Multistrand Single Core 185 Sqmm size Lead wire – 1500 coils. Bid Documents available on or after: 24.06.2026. Last date for submission of Bids: 23.07.2026, 17:00 Hrs. Opening of Bid Document: 24.07.2026 17:15 Hrs. The Tender can be obtained through KPP portal web-site http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPPP help desk contact numbers 91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or e-mail at support@eprochelpdesk.com.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Ele.,), Procurement, Corporate Office, BESCOM, 2nd Floor, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru–560001.

For electricity related complaints call 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra MOBILE APP

KALABURAGI MAHANAGARA PALIKE, KALABURAGI
Fax No.08472/260776, Phone: 08472/ 278675, Email Id: itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com
No: KMP/EE/TS-02/ 15th FC/SBM 2.0 & ULB Share/2026-27 DATE: 22/06/2026

CORRIGENDUM/EXTENSION NOTIFICATION

Sub: Postponement of Submission of tender in KPPP Portal-2.00 (04) Works, Tender With Indent No:1) 50221/Call-3 2) 48910/Call-2 3) 40702/Call-6 & 4) 52081/Call-3
Ref:- KMP/EE/TS-02/ 15th FC/SBM 2.0 & ULB Share/2026-27 Date: 17/06/2026
With respect to the above cited subject and Reference, the 04 works published vide Short Term Tender Notification No: KMP/EE/TS-02/ 15th FC/SBM 2.0 & ULB Share/2026-27 Date: 17/06/2026 Total 04 numbers of Works under 15th FC 2025-26, 15th FC 2024-25 C.O.W and SBM 2.0 & ULB Share Funds, the calendars of events have been postponed as below.

1	Last date of submission of Tender 24.06.2026 upto 11.00 Am	1	Last date of submission of Tender Postponed to 01.07.2026 upto 11:00 Am
2	Date and Time of Prequalification Bid 24.06.2026 upto 04.30 Pm	2	Date and Time of Prequalification Bid Postponed to 01.07.2026 at 04:30 Pm
3	Last date of opening of Technical bid of Tender 25.06.2026 upto 04.35 Pm	3	Last date of opening of Technical bid of Tender Postponed to 02.07.2026 upto 04:35 Pm
4	Last date of opening of Financial bid of Tender 29.06.2026 upto 11.30 Am	4	Last date of opening of Financial bid of Tender Postponed to 03.07.2026 upto 11:30 Am

DIPR/Kalaburagi/241/KSMC&A/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Kalaburagi mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಯಾದಗಿರ.
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್, ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಎನ್.ವಿ.ಎಮ್. ಹೋಟೆಲ್ ಎದರುಗಡೆ, ಸ್ಟೇಷನ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ–585202.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಯ್ಯಾ/ಕಕಅಮಂ/ಅಅ/2026–27/551 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.06.2026

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ, (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

1 ಅಕ್ಷರ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್‌ಗಳ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **YADGIR TALUKA 08 PACKAGE (1)**RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT26848 **(2)** RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT26857 (3) RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT26852 **(4)** RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT26069 **(5)**RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT26073 **(6)** RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT26092 **(7)** RDPR/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT18482 **(8)** RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT26865
SHORAPURTALUKA 10 PACKAGE: (1) RDPR/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT18573 **(2)** RDPR/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT18569 **(3)** RDPR/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT18568 **(4)** RDPR/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT18567 **(5)**RDPR/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT18555 (6) RDPR/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT18542 **(7)** RDPR/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT18536 **(8)**RDPR/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT18535 (9) RDPR/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT18521 **(10)** RDPR/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT18494 2) **ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:**2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಯೋಜನೆ (ಅಕ್ಷರ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ) ಯೋಜನೆ 3) **ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:**ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 13.39 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 50.59 ಲಕ್ಷ 4) **ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:** 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು 5) **ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:**25.06.2026 ರಿಂದ 06.07.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ 6) **ಟೆಂಡರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ (ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕು ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲಾ) 7) **ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 06.07.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ 8) **ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್:** 08.07.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11.00 ನಂತರ 9) **ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್:** 18.07.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11.00 ನಂತರ 10) **ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ (ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ):** ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಎನ್.ವಿ.ಎಮ್. ಹೋಟೆಲ್ ಎದರುಗಡೆ, ಸ್ಟೇಷನ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ–585202 11) **ಅಂತರಜಾಲ ತಾಣದ ವಿಳಾಸ:** https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

ಸೂಚನೆ :– ಟೆಂಡರರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (ರಜಾದಿನಗಳು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ).

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/125/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ&ಎ/2026–27

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (Ele), BECC, Old Madras Road, KR Puram, Bengaluru-36,
No: BECC/EE/ELE/QTN/02/2026-27 Date: 23-06-2026

INVITATION FOR QUOTATION

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer (Electrical) Bengaluru East City Corporation on behalf of The Commissioner, BECC, invites rates from the dealers, manufacturers and contractors for the following items of work.

Sl No.	Description of Items	Unit	Quantity
1.	Supplying and fixing of refractory cement FIRECRETE super (25 kg/bag) for casting refractory bricks	Bags	1
2.	Fabricating, supplying and fixing of 2mm thickness 300mm dia SS Bend 3 piece cutting 500 mm height suitable for Electrical crematorium scrubber system made out of SS 304 grade material	No	1
3.	Fabricating, supplying and fixing of 2mm thickness 300mm dia pipe with (MS) flange suitable for MS Electrical crematorium scrubber system made out of SS 304 grade material	Mtr	1
4.	Supplying and fixing of Checker plate MS 3mm (8/4 feet)	Kg	1
5.	Supplying and fixing of MS channel 75x40mm (48 meters)	Kg	1
6.	Hiring charges for supplying and fixing MCB on existing board using necessary fixing materials and wiring complete. iv) 32 to 63 Amps MCB 4 pole	Per Day	1
7.	Hire charges for supplying, fixing, servicing and maintaining of following change over switch for providing alternative power supply as required i) 125 Amps to 250 Amps 4 pole	Per Day	1
8.	Hire charges of supply, fixing, wiring, servicing and maintaining of 200 watts LED type Flood light fitting with accessories.	Per Day	1
9.	Hire charges for supplying, laying, connecting PVC insulated armoured/ unarmoured LTUG cable with necessary cable glands, socket etc., as required iii. 3.5 x 70 sqmm	Per Mtr	1
10.	Hire charges for supplying & running circuit service main with necessary messenger wire and reel insulators and maintaining the same using i) 2 of 6 sqmm/10sqmm PVC insulated sheathed aluminum wire.	Per Mtr	1
11.	Hire charges for supplying and fixing of suitable size casuarina poles for running circuit of service mains	Per Day	1
12.	Hire charges for supplying, fixing, wiring and maintaining of DG sets and connected accessories. The DG set should be maintained for all the 24 hours with necessary diesel for running the set, with operator b) 30 KVA DG SET	Per Day	1
13.	Hire charges for public address system of portable public address system: 2 sets AHUJA Dual hand wireless microphone/ wired microphone, AHUJA amplifier with Bluetooth and Wi-Fi and 4 mic and 1 aux inputs, preamplifier with recording facility, mp3 player inbuilt, resettable circuit breaker, instant transfer to DC power, 6 no's AHUJA 20-watt speaker, horn with connected all accessories.	Per Day	1
14.	Supplying of 9 volts rechargeable lithium battery 1200mAh suitable for microphone	No	1
15.	Supplying and installing of 1200mm BLDC ceiling fan single phase, BEE 5 star rated energy efficient, anti-rust with 2 years warranty	No	1
16.	Supplying and fixing of 11 KV HT SF6 SINGLE VCB PANEL WITH RELAY (OUTDOOR TYPE) MAKE: VYOMA. SPEC: SF6-VCB/OD/009	No	1
17.	Releasing and Buyback of Detoriated/Rusted unusable tubular/ octagonal/ conical poles of height 3 Mtr to 10 Mtr Height	No	1

The Quotation Schedule is as follows. Further details can be obtained from this office in the working hours.

Quotation Schedule : (1) Date from which Bid is ready for download through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) of Government of Karnataka on **23-06-2026** (2) Last date and time for submission in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) is **01-07-2026** upto **4:00 pm** (3) Date & time of opening is **02-07-2026** upto **4:30** pm (4) Earnest Money Deposit : Rs. **500/-** (Five Hundred Only)

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele)
BECC

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Temples and ill-conceived truth tests

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) usually benefits from cross-voting in Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council elections. This time, however, the party found itself at the receiving end. The election to the Karnataka Legislative Council saw Congress candidates emerge victorious in five seats, with cross-voting by opposition MLAs setting the tone for political strife. The secret ballot left the BJP-Janata Dal (Secular) combine red-faced, revealing that multiple opposition legislators had voted for the Congress. The search for the "traitors" had since taken an unusual turn. State BJP president B Y Vijayendra had suggested convening a meeting of legislators at Dharmasthala and asking them to take an *Aane Pramana* – an oath before Lord Manjunatha, affirming their truthfulness. The proposal stalled after immediate pushback from several senior party leaders, including Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, S Suresh Kumar, D V Sadananda Gowda, and Arvind Bellad.

Aane Pramana is not new to Karnataka. For centuries, it has served as a faith-based mechanism for resolving disputes when conventional avenues failed. Rooted in the belief that divine justice cannot be deceived, the ritual requires an individual to swear before the deity, with devotees believing that a false oath invites severe misfortune. The power of the practice lies not in law but in conscience and faith. Politics, however, has repeatedly tried to appropriate this tradition. From the B S Yediyurappa-H D Kumaraswamy confrontation in 2011 to later challenges involving Hartal Halappa-Belur Gopalakrishna, K M Shivalinge Gowda-N Ravi Kumar, and Laxmi Hebbalkar-C T Ravi, Dharmasthala has often been invoked as a stage for political theatre. Such episodes have rarely settled disputes; instead, they have generated headlines while trivialising a sacred custom.

Political indiscipline must be tackled through democratic processes, not by seeking divine arbitration

That is precisely why Vijayendra's proposal was deeply misplaced. If legislators have cross-voted, it reflects a political and organisational failure. A party president's job is to maintain discipline, anticipate dissent, and manage internal contradictions. Seeking divine intervention after the event cannot substitute for political management before it. More importantly, democratic problems must be resolved through democratic means. Cross-voting, indiscipline, and factionalism require political investigation and, where necessary, disciplinary action. They cannot be outsourced to temples or settled through public displays of religiosity. Dharmasthala occupies a unique place in Karnataka's cultural and spiritual landscape. It should not be dragged into partisan battles every time politicians seek moral validation. Sullying a revered institution by converting it into a political lie detector serves neither religion nor democracy. Politics must be fought in the political arena, not before the *sanctum* of a temple.

Errors without owners: A textbook case

Mistakes in school textbooks are not new in India, but the scale of the recent fiasco in Odisha is rare and troubling. More than 1,600 errors have been identified in textbooks for Classes 1 to 8, cutting across subjects such as history, geography, and science. While the Karnataka Legislative Assembly is passed off as the Odisha Assembly, Hampi is presented as the Konark Sun Temple, and Odisha's Niyamgiri Hills are relocated to Jharkhand. Sir Isaac Newton is described as the "greatest pilot", and the textbooks misspell words such as "greatest" and "equator". What these lapses signal is a striking failure of quality control, undermining the value of textbooks as an authentic knowledge source. When presented with misinformation, they call into question the entire education system. The errors were spotted in English, Hindi, Urdu, and Odia textbooks.

Notably, these textbooks were reportedly prepared over a year under the supervision of a 24-member committee consisting of officials and academic experts, before nearly three crore copies were printed and distributed among the students. It has since emerged that artificial intelligence was used in preparing the textbooks, but what about human judgment? How did the authorities fail in ensuring a basic level of scrutiny before the errors became irreversible? The larger takeaway from this debacle is the stark absence of ownership in the country's public institutions, especially when their systems fail. The Odisha government has yet to fully acknowledge the seriousness of the failure. These errors cannot be dismissed as isolated lapses. One of them warrants correction; thousands of them demand a lot more than corrections.

The Odisha debacle highlights the urgency for greater oversight and accountability in public education

Odisha's textbook gaffes make another case for a stronger culture of accountability. Coming after the controversy around the mismanagement of examinations such as the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and the recurring paper leaks, this episode reiterates the urgency for ensuring institutional competence and accountability. This accountability must not stop with the low-ranking officials. Public confidence in the education system can be maintained only when those who lead and oversee the system own up and face the consequences of failures. Institutions in the country need to acknowledge that while mistakes are unavoidable, true reform can happen only with the acceptance of those mistakes as the starting point, and with subsequent processes that ensure deterrence. The recent correction by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) of its ill-judged decision to censor the image of the dancing girl from Mohenjo-daro provides some context.

GRADUATE ECONOMY

A degree reset for the AI age

India must align curriculum reform with labour market realities and elevate the stature of skilled trades

AJIT RANADE

Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran has done a great service by saying something many parents, students, and policymakers do not want to hear: that the old automatic premium attached to software degrees and MBAs is vanishing. The globalisation-era formula was simple. Get an engineering degree, learn coding, do an MBA if possible, and enter a white-collar growth track. That formula is no longer reliable. AI is changing the economics of routine cognitive work. One experienced employee, assisted by AI tools, can now do what earlier required dozens of freshers. The first impact may not be mass layoffs. It may be the silent closing of entry gates. Witness the recent drop in hiring by IT companies.

But his warning should not be read as an obituary for engineering or management education. India does not need fewer engineers. It needs different engineers. Civil engineering, for instance, will remain central to India's future. A country that is still building roads, bridges, ports, railways, water systems, housing, logistics parks, and climate-resilient cities cannot say engineering is finished. However, the civil engineer of tomorrow cannot merely learn old formulae for concrete and surveying. She must understand climate risk, water stress, urban flooding, green materials, GIS mapping, project finance, procurement, and lifecycle maintenance. Mechanical and electrical engineers must understand robotics, precision manufacturing, storage, grids, and renewable integration. Computer engineers must move beyond routine coding to systems thinking, data architecture, cybersecurity, and AI applications in real sectors.

The same applies to MBAs. India does not need fewer people with analytical and managerial skills. It needs many more, but in places where they are rarely found today. Every district needs people who can analyse data, prepare investment plans, evaluate projects, monitor outcomes, improve procurement, manage public assets, and coordinate across departments. If India is serious about bottom-up planning, the district cannot remain merely an administrative unit. It must become a planning, data, and execution unit.

Why not strengthen district planning offices with young professionals trained in economics, management, public finance, statistics, GIS, infrastructure planning, and social sector delivery? Instead of producing generic MBAs who chase the same corporate jobs, we could create district development analysts, municipal finance associates, procurement specialists, health systems managers, education data officers, and climate adaptation officers. Such teams could transform local governance and create meaningful public-purpose jobs.

This is where curriculum reform and job design must go together. It is not enough to tell colleges to update syllabi. The labour market must create roles that reward updated skills. If colleges teach climate-resilient construction

but public works departments recruit on old criteria, nothing will change. If MBA students learn data analytics but district administrations have no posts for outcome monitoring or GIS mapping, the skill will be wasted. Education reform without job reform becomes another certificate factory.

Jobs as social currency

The CEA is also right to ask India to take skilled trades seriously. Welding, plumbing, carpentry, electrical work, caregiving, nursing, hospitality, and culinary skills involve human presence, judgment, dexterity, and trust. These are not easily replaced by AI. But here, too, we need to be careful. You cannot change social attitudes just by exhortation. A middle-class parent who has spent two decades telling a child to become an engineer or MBA will not suddenly celebrate welding as an equally attractive option. In India, a degree is not merely a credential. It is prestige, marriage value, caste mobility, migration possibility, and insurance against manual precarity.

This is why comparisons with Germany, Switzerland, Japan or South Korea must be made carefully. Skilled trades are respected there because institutions have made them respectable. Europe has had guilds, chambers, apprenticeships, licensing norms, and wage-bargaining institutions for more than a century. The guild did not merely teach the trade. It protected standards, restricted exploitation, shaped pride, and helped secure decent wages.

India has no comparable ecosystem. We have excellent individual craftsmen, but no strong professional guilds for plumbers, electricians, welders, carpenters, or repair technicians. We have ITIs and skilling schemes, but weak social prestige. We have certificates, but often lack employer trust. Most importantly, India's labour force is still overwhelmingly informal or unregistered. In such a market, a trade skill does not automatically translate into dignity or income security.

The recent unrest by industrial workers in the Noida and Gurugram-Manesar belt is a reminder. Many workers in automotive, garments, and allied manufacturing reportedly protested for basic monthly wages of around Rs 20,000 or more. These were not software engineers complaining about appraisal cycles. These factory workers said wages were below survival level. The IT sector emerged as a relatively formal, globally linked labour market. Industrial and trade workers often remain trapped between informality, contract labour, and a weak collective voice.

The deeper problem is India's graduate unemployment. Millions of young graduates are not working, earning or acquiring experience, but preparing for competitive exams. This is not irrational behaviour. It is a rational response to a labour market where private entry-level jobs are poorly paid and insecure, while government jobs offer a decent salary, status, security, and social insurance.

The same logic applies to universities. They have been declared dead, with the blame attributed to the internet, MOOCs, bootcamps, the pandemic, and now AI tutors. Yet higher education has expanded massively. The real issue is whether universities will use AI as a partner in learning, and not merely treat it as a cheating device.

The CEA's warning is well taken. But the policy message must be not to bury the degree but redesign it. Trade skills need to be formalised and bestowed with social dignity. India's jobs crisis will not be solved by replacing one social obsession with another. It will be solved when a young Indian can become a civil engineer, coder, nurse, chef, welder, district planner, technician, teacher, entrepreneur or civil servant – and each path carries dignity, income, security, and mobility.

(The writer is a noted economist; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Project nightmare

The instructions seemed to require more than three hands

N RAGHUPATHY

We recently moved houses with all the customary chaos that accompanies such events – especially after having lived in the old house for over 25 years. I was swimming in cardboard boxes and wrapping paper and was happy to see the final act in the drama, when we actually were in the new house, with the key to the old house taken away from us.

Amid the depressing scene of unpacked boxes of varying sizes, I spotted a set of brightly labelled ones unobtrusively delivered even as we were settling in, a term that I use loosely, of course. These contained my precious furniture, at least bits and pieces of it, that would ultimately become my new bed.

I was excited at the prospect of assembling the bed, a welcome respite from the boring and endless unpacking of boxes. But my enthusiasm was not shared by other family members. In fact, based on my past history of having regularly rendered useless, many times destroyed, everything that I had attempted to assemble, they were distinctly petrified at my new attempt to put together anything.

Undaunted by trivial attempts to dissuade me from my glorious destiny, I gathered together all the tools that I could lay my hands on and started opening the cartons containing the treasure. I cleared a large area on the floor and carefully placed all the components in alphabetical order, no mean task considering that the stickers depicting such alphabet were cleverly hidden on parts that looked deceptively similar and there were several duplicates.

I then opened the instructions sheet, read the words 'made in Vietnam' and immediately knew that I was in trouble. There were 15 different items listed of which 10 were screws and fasteners, all looking the same to me. The instructions were far from clear and generally seemed to require more than three hands. Part-A had to be attached to Part-C with 3 different screws (named P, Q, R giving me the unpleasant feeling of an unsolvable algebraic equation with infinite variables) while simultaneously aligning with a slot in Part-D. I chugged along for a few hours attaching, detaching and reattaching various parts to various other parts, reading the instructions repeatedly but getting no wiser. It felt like I was sitting in a merry-go-round, going round in circles and passing the same point at regular intervals. Family members duly suppressed their anguish and laughter and supplied me with coffee as I continued my cycle of doing and undoing tasks.

Soon, the writing was on the wall. I had reached a dead end and the finished product looked nothing like a bed. Even the most tenacious worker like yours truly had to accept that the project had failed and it was time to call in an expert – a Task Rabbit or the local handyman – to contain the damage and possibly salvage the bed. I quietly headed to the nearest corner containing unopened boxes.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Allahabad HC does well to penalise erring officials

The two-judge bench of the Allahabad High Court has done well in addressing the error of procedures and defiance shown to personal liberty by the law enforcers. The actions of the officials are nothing less than the British colonial Rowlatt Act of 1919. The autocratic, high-handed and arbitrary use of power by the men in khaki throughout the country, especially on the abandoned, vulnerable and impoverished, is unjustified in any democratic state. The directive to penalise officials, recover the compensation from their salaries and initiate disciplinary action is not only a deterrent but also a major step towards overhauling the system. This ruling is an opportunity for comprehensive reforms within the entire system.
Albert Smith, Bengaluru

Farmers need support

I refer to 'El Niño casts its shadow over India's onion capital, Lasalgaon; farmers hit by monsoon delay...' (Jun 23). The onion, being one of the significant supporting pillars for Maharashtra's agrarian economy, faces disquieting challenges due to the threat of a delayed monsoon, resulting in the absence of annual activities associated with onion cultivation. It need not be taken as an inroad in context with El Niño creating havoc; such deficit rainfalls, erratic monsoons and partial drought-like situations have been occurring in different parts of India for several years. Onion and other kharif crop-growing farmers need to be given assistance (like free or subsidised irrigation facilities, know-how of growing crops with low water requirement, technical backup, and so on). These measures will help farmers hold their ground; besides, they will effectively check price rises and simultaneously do away with artificial shortage of onions and other important agricultural commodities.
Rajiv Kumar Sinha, Bengaluru

Immature proposal

Apropos 'Cross-voting: BYV bats for Dharmasthala test to find truth' (Jun 22), it reflects the intellectual hollowness of the proponent. It is futile to seek a spiritual solution for a political problem. This method is born of sheer desperation.
T V Pandarinath Naidu, Kudige

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

...Our youth wing is here to explain the situation before 2014 and the changes that have occurred since Modi *ji* took office. In the days to come, these young people and students will play a major role in political participation.

Eatala Rajendar, BJP MP

Propaganda is the executive arm of the invisible government.
Edward Bernays

TO BE PRECISE

UK PM resigns over poor performance

IN PERSPECTIVE

The public health case for footpaths

The right to walk reframes safe pedestrian infrastructure as a prescription for India's growing NCD burden

JEHOSH PAUL

On June 19, 2026, the Supreme Court of India recognised what decades of infrastructure planning had largely overlooked: walking is not merely a mode of transport but a fundamental right. In *Maniyar Iliyaz @ Shaik Riyaz v. P Ayyappan*, a bench of Justices P S Narasimha and A S Chandurkar held that the freedoms of movement, expression, assembly, and association under Article 19, read together with the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution, guarantee every citizen the right to a demarcated footpath. This right shall have priority over motorised vehicle movement, with local bodies bearing an enforceable duty to build and maintain pedestrian infrastructure.

Though framed as a question of rights, the judgment speaks directly to one of India's most pressing public health challenges: the growing burden of diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease. The ICMR-INDIAB national study puts diabetes prevalence at 11.4% and hypertension at 35.5% among Indian adults. The burden is felt not only in clinics but also in household finances. A 2023 study in the *Indian Journal of Medical Research* found that a diabetic patient spends Rs 4,381 annually on outpatient care alone, while a hypertensive patient spends Rs 1,427. Another study found that 38% of Indian households with a diabetic member experience catastrophic health expenditure linked to the disease. The burden extends well beyond individual households. Estimates suggest that non-communicable diseases cost India between 5 and 10% of GDP through lost productivity and related economic losses. Yet public policy continues to respond largely through tertiary care rather than prevention.

The irony is that one of the most powerful tools against this crisis requires neither a prescription nor a hospital visit. It requires a place to walk. The American Diabetes Association recommends a minimum of 30 minutes of walking daily to cut the risk of Type 2 diabetes. On hypertension, a 2013 study in Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology found that walking can lower the risk of hypertension nearly as much as running when similar amounts of physical activity are undertaken. Walking, therefore, remains one of the most accessible and cost-effective preventive health interventions.

Yet India has largely failed to build the infrastructure that enables walking. The ICMR-INDIAB study found that 54.4% of Indians are inactive, with urban residents being more inactive than rural residents (65% versus 50%). Furthermore, fewer than 10% of Indians engage in any recreational physical activity. Public health policy has read this as a failure of individual will. The Supreme Court's judgment compels a different reading: it is a failure of infrastructure. A majority of work trips in Indian cities cover distances under five kilometres, well within walking range. However, broken pavements, encroachments, inadequate lighting, and uneven surfaces force residents onto motorised transport even for the shortest errands. Indians are not choosing to be sedentary. The built environment is making that choice for them.

An enforceable framework

The judgment noted that road design in India was historically built for the propertied classes who owned motor vehicles, structurally dispossessing pedestrians. This is also an epidemiological observation. A geospatial survey across urban slums in central Karnataka found that among 576 residents, 19.4% had diabetes, 30.3% had hypertension, and over 50% had both. The urban poor walk the most, live in areas with the worst pedestrian infrastructure, and carry the highest burden of the very diseases that walking prevents. In that sense, access to a safe footpath is not merely a matter of mobility but of health equity.

The Central government's existing programmes have only partially confronted this reality. While the National Programme for NCDs and the Fit India Movement promote awareness, screening, and behaviour change, neither places pedestrian infrastructure at the centre of its strategy. WHO guidance on physical activity promotion emphasises safe walking infrastructure, walkable access to daily amenities, and urban environments that encourage active travel. Indian cities fall far short of this standard, and until now, no enforceable legal framework existed to change that.

The Supreme Court has supplied the foundation for a genuinely integrated response. The Court called explicitly for legislation that declares the right, names the duty bearers, provides remedies for violations, and establishes a full-time regulatory body to plan and enforce pedestrian infrastructure. The relevant ministries, named by the Court itself, now carry a direct constitutional mandate to act. An Act that makes a footpath a mandatory condition for road approval could do more to address India's NCD burden than another round of awareness campaigns.

(The writer is a lawyer and development consultant)

Digital India needs more than devices and bank accounts

RITU KUMARI

When the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6 fact sheets were released last week, much of the attention focused on familiar indicators of health and nutrition. Yet one of the survey's most significant developments received comparatively little attention: its expanded focus on digital and financial inclusion. By incorporating new topics such as direct benefit transfer (DBT) coverage, self-help group (SHG) participation, and financial transactions, while continuing to track internet use, mobile phone ownership, and banking access, NFHS-6 offers a broader picture of socio-economic agency in India.

Women who have ever used the internet increased from 33.3% in NFHS-5 to 64.3% in NFHS-6. Women who own and use a mobile phone rose from 53.9% to 63.6%. Women with a bank account that they themselves use increased from 78.6% to 89%. These are extraordinary gains within a short span of time and reflect the reach of digital infrastructure, financial inclusion programmes, and welfare delivery systems across the country.

The numbers, while encouraging, also reveal a deeper challenge. India may be closing the access gap, yet it continues to struggle with the agency gap.

For over a decade, public policy has focused on expanding infrastructure. Bank accounts were opened under financial inclusion schemes. Mobile connectivity expanded rapidly. Government services migrated online. Welfare payments increasingly flowed through DBTs. The assumption was straightforward: access would lead to empowerment.

NFHS-6 suggests that the relationship is far more complicated.

Consider internet use. While 64.3% of women have now used the internet, the corresponding figure for men stands at 80.5%. The gap becomes sharper when geography enters the picture. More than three-fourths of urban women have used the internet, compared to less than 60% of rural women. The digital revolution has reached villages, but it has not reached everyone equally.

The mobile phone offers another window into the problem. Development practitioners increasingly recognise that the smartphone has become the gateway to citizenship itself. It determines access to welfare information, online education, telemedicine, digital payments, employment opportunities, and government services. Yet ownership remains uneven. Nearly four out of five urban women own and use a mobile phone, while rural women continue to lag considerably behind.

The consequences are not merely technological. They are social and economic.

A woman may have a bank account in her name, but if she lacks access to a mobile phone, digital literacy, or decision-making authority within the household, her financial autonomy remains limited. This is where the NFHS-6 findings become particularly revealing. While 89% of women report operating a bank account themselves, only a much smaller proportion participate in paid work. Financial inclusion has expanded faster than economic empowerment. Access to the banking system has not automatically translated into control over income or assets.

This distinction matters because contemporary development discourse often treats access as an end in itself. Success is measured by the number of accounts opened, SIM cards issued, or households connected. Such metrics are easy to count, politically attractive, and administratively convenient. Agency, by contrast, is harder to measure. It requires asking who controls the device, who decides how money is spent, who possesses the skills to navigate digital systems, and who ultimately benefits from inclusion.

The experience of rural India demonstrates why this distinction is important. Across many villages, women now possess bank accounts because welfare schemes require them. Yet accounts are often managed by male family members. Mobile phones may exist within households but remain under male control. Digital platforms are available, but confidence and skills to use them independently are uneven. The infrastructure exists; the capability to use it remains unequal.

The next phase of India's digital transformation must, therefore, move beyond connectivity. The challenge is no longer only technological but social. Investments in digital literacy, especially among rural women, are as important as investments in broadband networks. Financial literacy must accompany financial inclusion. Women's participation in paid work deserves as much attention as women's access to bank accounts.

NFHS-6 ultimately raises a question that extends beyond technology and finance. How should India measure development in the twenty-first century? If development is understood merely as access, the country has much to celebrate. If it is understood as the expansion of people's capabilities and choices, the task remains unfinished.

The survey's most important lesson may be that empowerment cannot be delivered through a bank account, a smartphone, or an internet connection alone. These are necessary foundations, but they are not ends in themselves. As Amartya Sen argued in his conception of development as freedom, progress must be judged not merely by the resources people possess but by their ability to convert those resources into meaningful choices and opportunities. The true test of Digital India, therefore, will not be the number of accounts opened or devices distributed but whether these tools expand the freedoms, capabilities, and economic agency of women, particularly those in rural India, enabling them to participate fully in social and economic life on their own terms.

(The writer is a development professional)

The debate over NEET is no longer confined to paper leaks; it is about equity, federalism and the future of India's professional education

M VEERAPPA MOILY

Candidates undergo security check before appearing for the NEET-UG re-examination at an exam centre in Nagpur on June 21. The re-exam was conducted following the cancellation of the original test held on May 3 amid a paper leak controversy. PTI

NEET crisis: The PM must heed Gen Z's unrest

When the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) was proposed in 2010 during the UPA-II government, it was argued that a single national entrance test for medical courses would uphold merit and educational standards. The NEET system ran into trouble as soon as it was introduced, with several states—Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka—opposing the change from state-administered entrance tests to a centralised system.

Over two million candidates appear for NEET-UG in May 2026. Within days of the examination, reports emerged of an alleged question paper leak, raising concerns about the integrity of the examination. Upon reviewing the findings, the National Testing Agency (NTA) cancelled the NEET-UG exam. Re-examination was conducted on June 21.

The Supreme Court Verdict

The one-country, one-test, NEET for medical admissions was initially proposed to take place from 2012 onwards. More than 80 cases opposing the NEET-UG were filed, two of these by state governments and the rest by private and minority institutions. On July 18, 2013, in a 2-1 split verdict on the validity of the NEET, a bench led by former Chief Justice Altamas Kabir held that the Medical Council of India and the Dental Council of India lacked legal authority to control admissions to MBBS, BDS and postgraduate courses.

In May 2024, the NTA conducted the NEET-UG examination at 4,750 centres in 571 cities (including 14 cities abroad) for more than 24 lakh candidates. It was marred by allegations of question paper leaks.

The Supreme Court, on June 18, made it clear to the Centre and the NTA that it did not want "even .001% negligence" on the part of anyone in the conduct of the undergraduate National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test 2024 to be spared.

The court said that the NTA, which holds the exam for medical admissions in the country, should be able to take a firm stand and, if necessary, own up to having made mistakes, if any, while holding the NEET-UG 2024.

The present paper leak controversy raises a critical question – are students and others affected adequately protected while examining the legal framework, the liability of actors, and the need for reform?

A paper leak falls within the category of 'unfair means' in legal terms, as defined under the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act 2024. Section 3 of the Act expressly includes the unauthorised leakage of question papers or answer keys as a specific form of unfair means in the conduct of public examinations.

The enactment of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act 2024 marks a crucial legislative development aimed at preserving the credibility of public examinations in India.

With all the provisions in the Act, some questions go unanswered: Why are the provisions not backed by law or statutes? Why are paper setters concentrated in one single region—Pune? Who selects these paper setters? Under which provision/law/rules are these paper setters selected? Under which law are the omissions and commissions punishable? Why are such repeated leaks taking place? Why have lessons learnt not been acted upon?

The paper leaks have turned stressful for the students and raise concerns about equal opportunities and doubts about whether the examination system is functioning effectively.

Students experience uncertainty, frustration, and anxiety. Re-examinations create additional pressure as students are compelled to continue intense preparation once again, leaving them exhausted and burnt out and affecting their mental well-being.

Karnataka introduced the concept of a Common Entrance Test (CET) for the first time in the 1990s, when the writer was the chief minister of Karnataka, particularly for engineering and medical courses, including dental, which abolished the capitation fee. Karnataka emerged as the Mecca of professional education. The entire country looked upon Karnataka for quality and affordable professional education, attracting many reputed IT firms.

The judiciary also upheld the system in the judgment in *Unnikrishnan v. State of Andhra Pradesh* in 1993. Justice Jeevan Reddy, in the judgment, put down several forward-looking approaches to professional education.

Right from the inception of CET in Karnataka, there has been no instance of a paper leak. The integrity of examination has been maintained. The Chinese government had even sent a delegation to study the CET system in Karnataka.

The time-tested CET system was later adopted by many states across the country. The system was replaced with NEET, as the Government of India thought it appropriate to introduce "one country, one test" for admission to medical colleges. The judiciary also upheld the decision.

Uniformity in the conduct of the NEET has created several complexities:

- Absence of a uniform secondary examination system in the country with inequalities prevailing in the various education systems.
- The changeover from state-administered entrance tests to NEET has produced disparities and virtually killed the initiatives of states in ensuring quality and standardised medical education at the UG level.
- NEET has also resulted in the mushrooming of coaching classes and commercialisation of education.
- The NEET favours students from urban and economically privileged backgrounds who have access to coaching centres and resources. Many students in private colleges get special coaching as part of their regular classes; those in government colleges do not get this facility.
- This discriminates against students from rural and backward regions, putting them at a disadvantage.

Initiatives taken by the Centre, state governments and judiciary to abolish capitation fees have resurfaced in the form of coaching classes and additional courses offered by colleges.

The intense competition of NEET has resulted in immense stress among students. Incidents of student suicides have raised serious concerns about mental health and well-being.

NEET is conducted in English and Hindi, posing a language barrier to students who have studied in regional languages.

In the past seven years, the number of applicants has almost doubled from 12 lakh in 2017 to nearly 24 lakh in 2026. It is quite clear that fraud has been committed in the NEET system. The ultimate result will be the inferior quality of doctors, both within the country and those who opt for postgraduate studies abroad. NEET needs major surgery, or it will reflect on the career and prospects of the students and the medical profession as a whole.

When in crisis, the present NDA regime has always failed. It failed the people on many fronts: during the Covid-19 pandemic, in generating employment, and in the fall of the rupee, to name a few. This has created unrest among Gen Z, and the discontent is engulfing the country.

Dozens of student suicides have failed to awaken the consciousness of the prime minister or the education minister. The call for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has fallen on deaf ears, resulting in widespread demonstrations and agitations by Gen Z, including that by the Cockroach Janta Party.

The Government of India has to wake up and take accountability for the paper leak and assuage the unrest among the students. The time has come for a thorough review of both the judiciary and the administration to provide clarity in the education system.

It is most appropriate that the following be considered on top priority to remove the uncertainty and pressure on the students:

- Delegate the process of holding the NEET to states.
- To consider 50% of the marks scored by the students in the Class XII or Plus 2 examination conducted either by the state or the CBSE/ICSE boards.

(The writer is a former chief minister of Karnataka and former Union minister)

Codify privileges

MAANSI VERMA AND AKHIL MUHAMMAD

What is common between comedian Kunal Kamra, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge? Within the last one year, for separate incidents, notices for breach of legislative privilege have been moved against each of them. While Kamra and Kharge are accused of making 'insulting' remarks against Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Prime Minister Modi respectively, the prime minister himself stands accused of 'casting aspersions' on MPs in his address to the nation following the defeat of the delimitation bills in Lok Sabha earlier this year.

The Constitution of India empowers the Parliament and state legislatures to define their privileges by law, which they never did; uncodified legislative privileges are open to misuse through misguided and selective application against critics, opposition and even the press.

Before Independence, Indian legislators consistently demanded the same privileges as those enjoyed by the British MPs, to prevent frequent interference by the British government and courts in the functioning of the Indian Legislature and malicious reporting on its functioning by the British-controlled press. These privileges were first codified in the Government of India Acts of 1919 and 1935 and the Constitution of India built further on these. Articles 105 and 194 enshrine privileges for Parliament and state legislatures respectively, in near-identical terms: freedom of speech inside Parliament and immunity from court proceedings for anything said or any vote in the House or its committees.

As per a Rajya Sabha Secretariat publication, privileges are special rights that apply to the House as a body, and on its individual members, 'in order that the House may freely perform its functions'. They are designed as a shield against unwarranted interference. A commentary by Lok Sabha Secretariat identifies as privilege the power of the House to punish any act that obstructs the House in performing its functions.

The test laid down in the case of unauthorised access to call data records, allegedly by some Delhi Police personnels and others, of the then Leader of Opposition Arun Jaitley is instructive here. Jaitley argued that it violated his privacy and privilege because it prevented him from discharging his role as an opposition leader. Noting that unlawful surveillance and interception will be an offence and violation of privacy, the Committee of Privileges in its 2015 report, reiterated in its 2019 report, held that for it to also be a breach of privilege it must be proved that it caused 'hindrance or obstruction in the functioning of the MP in the House or any of its Committees.'

Other than the privileges codified in the Constitution, Article 105(3) empowers Parliament to define its powers, privileges and immunities by law. The 42nd Constitution Amendment, 1976, removed the requirement for codification and provided that apart from claiming privileges that existed then, the House "may evolve" further privileges from time to time.

It must be noted that if any law is enacted defining such privileges, such law would be subject to other provisions of the Constitution, including fundamental rights, making it tempting to keep privileges uncodified and regulated internally. The 44th Constitution Amendment, 1978, however, rightly undid this.

The question of codification has been discussed many times. Legislators' stated position, across decades, has been that codification "would harm the prestige and sovereignty of Parliament without commensurate benefit." Ironically, lawmakers argue that defining their privileges would diminish them and insist on operating without limits.

Not every complaint of breach of privilege is referred to the Committee of Privileges. But, if referred, the Committee first decides 'whether' a breach occurred, and what remedial action follows. In the absence of codified privileges with specific definitions and principles to be applied to different situations, political considerations and not actual 'breach' decide the outcome.

For instance, applying the test laid down in Jaitley's case, how would Kamra's criticism, justified or not, prevent Maharashtra Assembly or Eknath Shinde from performing their functions? Have Kharge's comments against the PM come in the way of the latter discharging his duties? The notice of breach of privilege against the PM for his address to the nation, accusing Opposition parties of committing 'foeticide' for voting against the delimitation bills, alleges that attributing motives to any member for any vote given in Parliament obstructs their free discharge of duty. But, while this notice remains pending with Lok Sabha Speaker, the one against Kharge swiftly went to the Committee, indicating that discretion and inconsistency is baked in the process.

Given that the legislature even reserves the power to punish for its contempt, which may range from an apology to suspension of MPs to imprisonment of an ordinary citizen, it is imperative that privileges are codified now.

(Maansi is a lawyer and founder of Maadhyam, an initiative closely tracking Parliament. Akhil is pursuing Masters in Political Science and has interned at Maadhyam)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: JUNE 1976

Centre bans peons recruitment

New Delhi, June 23
The Central Government has banned recruitment of peons to fill existing vacancies following a directive issued by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi against the system of having peons attached to individual officers or offices. The Department of Personnel is now working the modalities of a messenger system under which peons, when needed, would be available for taking files from one section to another. A comprehensive order on the subject will be issued after a final decision is taken on the scheme.

25 YEARS AGO: JUNE 2001

CM lambasts NDA govt

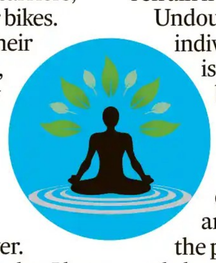
Bangalore, June 23
Chief Minister S M Krishna today took the NDA government at the Centre to task for allowing Andhra Pradesh to go ahead with three irrigation projects in the Krishna basin in violation of the Supreme Court order and said an all-party delegation from Karnataka would be led to New Delhi to pressurise the prime minister into withdrawing the clearance favouring Andhra Pradesh. Mr Krishna said the decision to clear the controversial irrigation projects of Andhra Pradesh was politically motivated.

OASIS | SURYAKUMARI DENNISON

Encountering everyday exemplars

When William Wordsworth started writing, in the late 18th century, poetry was regarded as the prerogative of the privileged. That revolutionary poet blazed a trail by celebrating common folk. He felt that one could glean from their goodness, which was born, he believed, of their proximity to nature.

My urban neighbourhood is far removed from rustic simplicity but has its share of ordinary people who are role models. When I feel smugly satisfied with myself for setting off early on my morning walk, I realise that others, more determined and disciplined, have been out jogging long before me. I also see an elderly gentleman, with faltering steps, who is tending his plants, as his late wife used to do. Then there are tea vendors and newspaper carriers, burdened with bags on their bikes. Security guards, replacing their colleagues on the night shift, distribute biscuits to hungry street dogs.



Baba is not among those needy canines. Attired in an orange vest-harness, he trots along regally in the company of his kind caregiver. The handsome husky knows that I long to stroke him and pauses patiently to be patted. From Baba I learn to respect boundaries. While he usually tolerates my caresses, he occasionally emits a low growl to indicate that I should refrain from touching him.

Undoubtedly, the most inspiring individual whom I come across is a lady who swishes two brooms around. Our area may lack the sylvan serenity of the 'vernal wood' that Wordsworth extols, but it does have beautiful overarching trees. Mithra keeps the place free of fallen leaves and also of garbage, which (contrary to the aforementioned natural phenomenon) ought not to be there. She is always smiling, whatever the weather and however hard the task. If Wordsworth was impressed by a 'Solitary Reaper', I admire this not-so-solitary sweeper. She is rarely alone, since passersby appreciatively acknowledge her. Unlike the harmonious harvester Wordsworth observed, Mithra does not pour out her heart in song, but she listens to music on a phone tucked in her apron pocket.

Returning home, I hear a young man greet me from across the road: "Good morning. Have a wonderful day!" We do not know each other, but he is among the exemplars I am blessed to encounter daily.

CLIMATE CRISIS: India faces one of driest Junes in recent years as several states see shortfall

Rain deficit at 42%; monsoon finally enters Mumbai

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India is staring at one of the driest Junes in recent years, with rain deficiency touching 42% on Tuesday, even as the southwest monsoon finally reached Mumbai nearly two weeks behind schedule.

Meteorologists said precipitation is likely in peninsular India and the west coast over the next few days, but rains are not expected in north and central India in the next week. The southwest monsoon revival is likely in the first week of July, but it will be weak.

The deficit is highest in Maharashtra (76%), followed by Gujarat (74%), Chhattisgarh (67%), Jharkhand (65%) and Madhya Pradesh (53%). Among southern states, Karnataka has the highest shortfall at 40%. Rainfall deficiency is over 40% in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha.

The overall monsoon deficiency for the entire country until June 23 is 42%. This is one of the highest in the last 25 years, after 2019 (47%) and 2014 (44%).

"For the next week, monsoon rain is not expected in the central and northern parts of India. There may be a revival in the first week of July, but it won't sustain. The revival won't be strong," M Rajeevan, veteran weather scientist and former secretary, Union Ministry of Earth Sciences, told *DH*.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) confirmed the monsoon's arrival in Mumbai nearly two weeks behind usual schedule of June 11. This is the fourth most delayed onset in India's financial capital in 60 years, after 1974 (June 28), 2023 (June 26) and 2019 (June 25). In 1981, the monsoon reached Mumbai on June 23.

"The southwest monsoon has further advanced into some more parts of Maharashtra, including Mumbai, the remaining parts of Telangana and Odisha, some more parts of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Bihar," the IMD said in a statement on Tuesday.

Conditions were favourable for the monsoon's further advancement into parts of Gujarat, more areas of Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh and some parts of Madhya Pradesh during the next 2-3 days, it said.

Warnings of a potentially insufficient monsoon have raised alarm. "In an El Nino year, a rainfall-deficit June is not a good sign. The chances of revival in the latter half of the monsoon are slim due to El Nino," Rajeevan said.

The IMD last month downgraded its long-range monsoon forecast to 90% of average rainfall between June and September.

Children play during monsoon showers in Mumbai on Tuesday. PTI

Shortfall story

Maha tops rain deficit at **76%**, Gujarat at **74%**

Karnataka hit hardest among southern states, with **40% deficit**

METEOROLOGISTS EXPECT ONLY A FEEBLE REVIVAL IN EARLY JULY

Farmers and policymakers warn of El Nino impact

Nationwide deficit at 42%; one of the highest in 25 years

Dry skies cast El Nino shadow over onion capital

FROM THE GROUND

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
LASALGAON (NASHIK), DHNS

As dawn breaks over Lasalgaon in Nashik district, Asia's largest onion auction centre, the market yard is already throbbing with activity. Tractors, mini-trucks and pick-up vans laden with onions stream into the sprawling 22-acre Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) complex. Mounds of red, pink and copper-coloured bulbs stretch across auction platforms like miniature hills glowing in the morning light.

Traders inspect the onions' size, skin and firmness before bidding begins for 'kanda,' as the bulbs are called in Marathi.

Yet beneath the daily bustle lies a growing unease.

Across the onion-growing belt surrounding Lasalgaon in Niphad, farmers are anxiously watching the skies as delayed monsoon rains and fears of an El Niño-induced rainfall deficit threaten sowing operations. In a region where onion cultivation sustains thousands of families and where prices discovered in the market influence onion trade across the country, the question this season is not what onions will fetch at auction, but whether there will be enough onions to bring to market in the months ahead.

The Lasalgaon onion auction centre in Nashik. DH PHOTO

ERRATIC WEATHER

- Lasalgaon in Nashik recorded an avg annual rainfall of 717 mm during 2015-2025
- The highest was 987 mm in 2025, and the lowest 312 mm in 2018
- Delayed monsoons & unseasonal showers can affect sowing, storage
- Lasalgaon onion market saw the highest arrivals of 96.26 lakh quintals in 2022-23
- The lowest was 52.37 lakh quintals in 2024-25

Ripple effect

The concern is not misplaced. Lasalgaon is more than just a market town. It is the nerve centre of India's onion economy. Onions from five districts — Nashik, Dhule, Jalgaon, Ahilyanagar and Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar — are traded through the Lasalgaon APMC. Fluctuations in arrivals and prices here often have a direct bearing on farmer incomes, wholesale markets and retail prices across the country.

On Monday, this *DH* correspondent spent a day in Lasalgaon, experiencing both intense heat and, later in the evening, a brief spell of rain — the first significant showers of the season.

"Within the next fortnight, if we do not receive adequate rainfall, there could be a crisis ahead," warned Narendra Wadhavane, member-secretary of the Lasalgaon APMC, which was established on April 1, 1947.

"In 2025, the Lasalgaon region received 987 mm of rainfall. Last year, between May 6 and June 21 alone, rainfall had already touched 409 mm. This year, until now, there has been virtually none. The pattern has become increasingly erratic," he said.

The changing weather pattern is not lost on local cultivators. "Farmers today are aware of what is happening globally. They know that El Niño can affect the monsoon and that climate change is having a long-term impact on agriculture," said Nivrutti Nyahkar, a farmer from Lasalgaon.

Price crash, shelf life

The weather challenge comes at a time when onion farmers are already grappling with a sharp fall in prices.

Agriculture expert and writer Vijay Gaikwad believes the current market situation reflects a deeper crisis.

"What we are witnessing this season is not a routine price crash. Most of the stock currently lying in mandis was harvested during April and May. Early May rains increased humidity levels, leading to neck rot and rapid spoilage in storage. The shelf life of onions has deteriorated sharply," he said.

Commuters wade through a waterlogged road following heavy rain in Kolkata on Tuesday. Four people were killed in a lightning strike as thunderstorms and heavy rain battered large parts of West Bengal, uprooting trees and causing waterlogging that disrupted normal life. PTI

Meghalaya maps climate risks, rolls out action plan

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Desilting of ponds and reservoirs, construction of new water-harvesting structures, groundwater recharge initiatives and watershed management interventions are among the measures Meghalaya is rolling out as part of its action plan to tackle the potential impact of El Nino on the lives and livelihoods of its residents.

On Tuesday, several departments and agencies were directed to carry out quick assessments of possible risks and to formulate immediate, medium-term and long-term interventions. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Meghalaya Climate Council in Shillong, chaired by Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma.

Representatives from several government departments, technical experts, the India Meteorological Department, Meghalaya Basin Management Agency, Public Health Engineering, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, and other stakeholders attended the meeting.

As a hilly state, Meghalaya depends heavily on rainwater and natural springs as its primary water sources. But water scarcity during winter and scanty rainfall even in the monsoon over the past few years have become a growing concern for both the government and residents. The warning of possible El Nino impacts has further raised alarm within the administration.

Officials said that extensive mapping and vulnerability assessments have already been undertaken to identify areas requiring priority interventions.

Now, drones to assess crop damage in Maharashtra

MUMBAI, DHNS: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday directed the Agriculture and Disaster Management departments to jointly undertake drone-based surveys to obtain accurate data on damage caused to high-value crops due to natural calamities.

"Drone technology will ensure precise assessment of crop losses, enabling insurance companies to process compensation claims without difficulty," Fadnavis said.

The decision comes in the wake of the El Nino-triggered weather situation.

The chief minister also instructed insurance companies to verify the damage records prepared by the local administration regarding banana crop losses across the state. He directed that compensation be processed immediately after examining real-time data from the Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre (MRSAC) and satellite imagery.

The CM issued the instructions during a meeting he chaired at the Vidhan Bhavan complex in Mumbai to review the banana crop damage in the Jalgaon district.

Nihang Sikhs interact with officials from Punjab after ending their standoff at Nagrasu Gurudwara, in Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand, on Tuesday. PTI

Kerala govt may review tax cut on low-alcohol beverages

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: The Congress government in Kerala is likely to reconsider the budget proposal to reduce tax on low-alcohol beverages with resentment within the ruling front intensifying and the Opposition making serious accusations.

Opposition leader Pinarayi Vijayan alleged in the Assembly on Tuesday that the move was aimed at helping a Karnataka-based liquor firm, and Congress's key coalition partner, the Indian Union Muslim League.

Chief Minister V D Satheesan is expected to clarify his position in his response to the current budget debate in the Assembly on Wednesday.

The Opposition left-front MLAs entered the well of the house shouting slogans and later staged a walkout after Speaker Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan denied permission to present an adjournment motion notice on the matter on Tuesday.

Congress leaders, including former state unit president V M Sudheeran, AICC general secretary K C Venugopal and Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala expressed their differences over the decision, which is likely to be rolled back on Wednesday.

NGOs face fines for speculative use of funds

Govt introduces new penalties for FCRA violation

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The government has introduced new penalties for violations of the law regarding the receipt and utilisation of foreign contributions by NGOs, which include spending such funds on speculative activities or in states and Union Territories where they have not been registered.

The Ministry of Home Affairs' Monday notification on the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) came close on the heels of the government issuing a separate order restricting the use of foreign funds to 105 religious, cultural, economic, educational and social activities and in specified states and Union Territories.

While the penalty for defraying foreign contributions beyond 20% of the contributions received for administrative expenses will be Rs 1 lakh, or 5% of the amount spent beyond the limit, whichever is higher, the ministry added two more sections, which include penalties for spending on speculative activities and for unauthorised activities.

Rs 1 lakh in fine

The utilisation of foreign contribution in speculative activities, in contravention of Section 8(1) of the Act read with rule 4 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011, will attract a penalty of Rs 1 lakh or 30% of the amount invested in such activities, whichever is higher.

In addition, 100% of the returns earned therefrom shall also be recovered, the notification said.

In case a foreign contribution was utilised for purposes other than those for which it was received, a penalty of 30% of the amount, or Rs 1 lakh, whichever is higher, shall be levied.

Similar penalties will be levied on violators for accepting or utilising foreign contributions in contravention of the Act, or utilising the funds for a purpose or in a state or a Union Territory for which registration has not been granted.

Gutted Lucknow building was 'unauthorised', had a demolition order

LUCKNOW, DHNS

The building where a fire broke out on Monday killing 15 people was "unauthorised" and a demolition order was issued in 2016, sources in the Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) said, adding that the order was revoked less than two months later, allegedly through collusion with some LDA officials.

The authority has again issued a demolition notice to the owners of the building after the tragedy and sought their reply within 15 days. "The building will be demolished thereafter," said an LDA official.

Of the two owners, Virendra Prasad Shukla and Surendra Shukla, the former was arrested on Tuesday. The police are looking for Surendra and another brother, Dheerendra, whose names appear in an FIR.

The others arrested were the pet shop owner Ramkrishna Upadhyaya, manager of the animation centre Tushank Krishna Jaiswal and a tenant Suresh Kumar Sahu.

Separately, LDA has initiated an inquiry against officials for laxity.

A team of Uttar Pradesh Forensic Science Laboratory (UP FSL) at the fire site, in Lucknow on Tuesday. PTI

Heads have already started rolling with the state government suspending two LDA engineers. Two more officials from the electricity department and the fire department were also suspended.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath summoned Prathamesh Kumar and asked him to furnish the list of unauthorised buildings in the city and details of the demolitions carried out in the past.

Flame trap

The grieving families blamed the civic authorities for Monday's inferno. "The authorities should have checked if there was an emergency exit and fire-fighting equipment," said Shatrughna Lal, who lost his son in the incident.

Locals complained that the fire tenders arrived almost 40 minutes late, and by that time, the flames had engulfed the building.

The two-member SIT set up to the probe the case promised to submit its report at the earliest."More action will follow after the SIT report," said an LDA official.

(*With PTI inputs*)

Office romance to tragedy: Engaged couple killed in UP fire

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Little did Neelesh and Anamika know that the love story which began at the Lucknow animation centre office, and was soon to culminate in their wedding, would meet a tragic end at the very same place.

Both were among the 15 people who lost their lives in the devastating blaze that engulfed a building in the upscale Aliganj locality on Monday.

The couple had recently become engaged, with their marriage planned for next year.

Neelesh's brother Abhishek said that Neelesh and Anamika worked in the same office and were close friends. Their friendship blossomed into love, and they had already informed their parents of their intention to marry.

Anamika was from West Bengal. Her parents had visited Neelesh's family last week. It was agreed by both families that the wedding would take place next year. Neelesh's parents were also scheduled to travel to Bengal next week.

Fate, however, had other plans. The couple became trapped inside the building when the fire broke out and could not escape. Their bodies were later recovered. Anamika's cousin Somaliya, who also worked there, died in the blaze.

'Everything finished'

"Everything is finished. My son and would-be daughter-in-law became victims of a callous system," said a distraught Shatrughna Lal, Neelesh's father.

Why ED, CBI not probing Ujjain 'land scam', Cong asks PM

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Congress on Tuesday questioned why central probe agencies are not investigating those behind the alleged "land scam" in Madhya Pradesh and cited media reports which claimed the involvement of family members of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav.

Referring to the reports alleging that Yadav's family had bought acres of land in Ujjain in zones benefiting from infrastructure projects, Congress general secretary K C Venugopal said people are now aware of the truth behind "Na khaoonga, na khaane doonga" and said this "farce" must end now.

There was no immediate reaction from the BJP on the allegations.

"PM Modi, why have ED-CBI not knocked on the doors of MP CM Mohan Yadav? Is a 253-acre mega land scam not grounds enough to chase him and punish him for his crimes?" Venugopal said. He said be it the Ujjain "land scam" or the shocking "loot" of donation funds from the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, or the alleged "corruption by the Assam CM and his family - the list is endless".

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh alleged that the "engine of plunder" is running at full speed under the BJP's double-engine government in MP.

TECH-DRIVEN

Kerala to roll out AI policy for good governance

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The Kerala government is gearing up to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve efficiency and transparency in governance.

As many as 51 governance issues have already been identified, and 237 AI-based solutions for these issues have been proposed by start-ups. After the proposals are reviewed by the departments concerned, suitable ones will be implemented on a pilot basis. An AI policy will also be rolled out by the government, IT Minister P K Kunhalikutty said.

The newly sworn-in Congress-led United Democratic Front government has decided to make AI a separate portfolio associated with the IT department in order to give greater thrust to development in the field. The decision came close on the heels of a similar initiative by the newly formed Joseph Vijay-led government in Tamil Nadu.

In a written reply to the state Assembly on Tuesday, Kunhalikutty said the state government has already taken steps to use AI to improve governance, with a focus on enhancing transparency and the swift delivery of services to the public.

He said that as many as 18 government departments were already associating with the Kerala AI Mission (K-AI) to explore the possibilities of using AI to improve governance and find solutions to the 51 issues identified. Innovative applications in sectors such as health, education, agriculture and disaster management could be developed using AI-based decision-making tools, data analysis applications and chatbots.

The state government is also drafting an AI policy that would foster AI development in the state. The policy will be drafted considering national and international models and best practices in the AI sector. Awareness and training on the effective, transparent and responsible use of AI will also be introduced, he said.

Two held over bid to forge forensic report in Mann viral video case

GURUGRAM, PTI: The Haryana Police on Tuesday arrested two men after registering a case on a complaint by a person who alleged that he was approached for procuring a fabricated forensic report of a viral video linked to the controversy involving the Punjab chief minister.

The development comes amid a political storm triggered by an alleged objectionable video over which the Akal Takht, the supreme temporal body of Sikhs, had issued an edict against Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on June 15. The edict came after Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargajj claimed that the video, purportedly showing a man resembling Mann, was found to be "authentic" by the two forensic labs.

Bhagwant Mann

Mann has already rejected the video, saying it was "false propaganda" aimed at defaming him. The Punjab AAP had also claimed that forensic tests by two labs showed that the man in the video was not Mann.

According to the FIR registered in Gurugram, complainant Jaspreet, a Sirsa resident, has alleged that he was pressured, threatened and coerced into getting forensic reports related to the video with a predetermined conclusion that the video in question was created and manipulated by AI and that the person seen in the video was not the Punjab CM.

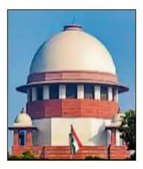
Jaspreet, who is associated with digital forensics, cyber investigation and electronic evidence analysis, claimed that after reviewing the material which was provided to him, he told them that the quality, nature and source of the video material were insufficient to provide a reliable forensic opinion.

He also alleged that approximately Rs 10 lakh in cash was provided to facilitate the preparation of the reports.

However, AAP's Aman Arora said that "had there been any intention to secure a favourable forensic report, it could have been done through any laboratory in Punjab, where law and order is under our government. The fact that this was not done clearly shows that the objective was to obtain an impartial assessment of the video".

Go to HC: SC on plea over ration card deletions in West Bengal

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS



The Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to entertain a plea alleging that persons excluded during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal were being dropped from ration cards, leaving many beneficiaries at risk of losing food security benefits.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi directed the petitioner to approach the Calcutta High Court instead, noting that the issue concerning ration cards constituted a separate cause of action.

"All those people whose names have been excluded in the SIR are sought to be excluded from the ration list, and this has caused a lot of problems. A lot of beneficiaries are in danger of being excluded," the petitioner's counsel submitted while seeking urgent listing.

When the lawyer pointed out that the apex court had earlier upheld the SIR exercise, the bench observed that the ration card matter stood on a different footing.

"The Calcutta High Court is functioning. Go there," Justice Nagarathna said.

The plea had highlighted the fallout of a June 4 order issued by the West Bengal Food and Supplies Department.

The department had launched a statewide verification drive to identify and delete ineligible beneficiaries from the Public Distribution System (PDS), directly linking it to the outcome of the SIR of electoral rolls. The exercise was to be completed by June 15.

TMC set to reboot with Didi taking reins of party

Reverses post-2021 changes steered by Abhishek Banerjee

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The poll debacle and the rebellion in the party have prompted a reset in the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress, reversing the post-2021 changes steered by Abhishek Banerjee.

Mamata Banerjee

The leadership has chalked out an action plan, which would include Mamata and Abhishek meeting party workers six days a week at the former's Kalighat residence, or Trinamool Bhavan, and pausing plans to take disciplinary action against erring members for now, sources said.

Subtly accepting the criticism of the rebels, sources said the introspection has led to the realisation that I-PAC, the political consultancy engaged by Trinamool, got primacy over the organisation and it needs to be reversed.

The change came after 2019 where I-PAC ran the organisation with Abhishek being the prime mover, but the control was restored to the organisation, they said, indicating that Mamata has taken the reins of the entire machinery.

The party, for the first time since its inception in 1998, has appointed two joint secretaries, Derek O'Brien and Dola Sen, "assist" Abhishek with an instruction "not to be rubber stamps".

The two appointments are also seen as an attempt to take the spotlight away from Abhishek.

There is also instruction not to rush to appoint people in party positions, the sources said.

Public outreach

Amid complaints of inaccessibility in the past, the Trinamool leadership is now planning an outreach with Mamata and Abhishek remaining available to meet people everyday barring Sundays (2 pm to 7 pm), for which an announcement is awaited. The move is seen as Mamata's return to basics that reaped rich dividends in the past.

The sources said the disciplinary committee is on a "wait and watch" approach against those indulging in "anti-party activities" and making statements against the leadership.

The leadership is banking on the party's constitution to avert any challenge to Mamata's leadership.

The sources said the leadership did not engage with the rebels, who were putting pressure on Mamata to distance herself from Abhishek.

Pamphlets highlight systemic issues at CJP protest

Groups warn against platform turning into electoral campaign

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

They support the protest by Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) at the Jantar Mantar here, demanding the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the NEET-CBSE fiasco, but have advice and a warning for them.

Quite a few organisations have suggestions, including expanding the scope of demands to disband the National Testing Agency (NTA), remaining wary of those using the platform for careerism, enacting a law to recall the Education Minister, and disallowing the platform from transforming into an electoral campaign.

While the CJP protest focused on the ouster of Pradhan, the Progressive Students Youth Association (PSYA) distributed pamphlets at the protest venue, emphasising that it should not stop at Pradhan's resignation and must fight for the system to be fixed with the disbanding of NTA as one of the points.

The PSYA warned the CJP that humour and satire are "substitutes for serious politics"

Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke interacts with Samyukt Kisan Morcha members. PTI

with its pamphlet saying that they should not allow people to divert the energy into "another electoral campaign with all its illusions (like the India Against Corruption movement that gave us the ruling BJP)".

An open letter in the name of Kavita Krishnapallavi, which was distributed at the venue, largely supported the CJP's campaign points but with "some friendly questions". It said rural and urban workers are the largest class of the country and they are missing from the CJP campaign.

"Shouldn't their aspirations, their anger, their dreams also find expression?... This seems to be a major shortcoming. Its (CJP's) manifesto should have the voice of workers," the letter said, expressing confidence that CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke would take it as "friendly criticism".

On the other hand, the 'Vote Vapsi Movement' wants a law to replace or recall the Education Minister. It claims Education Ministers since 1991 have recommended several wrong measures aimed at weakening the level of mathematics and science for students.

One by Sadbhavna Mission distributed a pamphlet at the protest site, where it demanded the restoration of voters who were deleted from the electoral rolls and an end to paper leaks. It also wants an end to the "infiltrator facade", claiming the Prime Minister and others are instilling terror among the working classes by raising the fake issue of infiltrators.

CUET-UG 2026 results out, Delhi duo tops exam

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

TEST TALLY

- Two Delhi students, Devina Gahlot and Saksham Goel, topped the examination
- Over 11 lakh students appeared for the test conducted in computer-based mode
- English remained the most preferred medium, with over 13.22L registrations, followed by Hindi with 2.18L

The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Tuesday declared the results for the Common University Entrance Test (CUET-UG) 2026, the country's largest undergraduate admission entrance examination, with more than 15.68 lakh candidates having registered for the test.

Two Delhi students, Devina Gahlot and Saksham Goel, topped the list.

The agency highlighted exceptional performances in the examination. One candidate secured a 100 percentile score in four of five opted subjects, while 22 candidates achieved 100 percentile in three subjects. Another 180 candidates scored 100 percentile in two subjects and 3,214 candidates obtained a 100 percentile score in one subject.

According to the NTA, a total of 15,68,867 unique candidates registered for CUET-UG 2026, while 11,64,098 appeared for the examination conducted in computer-based mode across multiple shifts between May 11 and June 7.

The agency said candidates were allowed to choose up to five subjects, generating nearly 67.56 lakh test instances and 12,906 distinct subject combinations. The examination was conducted over 19 days and 35 shifts in 321 cities, including 13 international locations.

Among the candidates, Devina Gahlot of Delhi emerged as the top scorer with an aggregate NTA score of 1232.19 across five subjects. She was followed by Saksham Goel of Delhi with 1230.82 and Udit Chaturvedi of Himachal Pradesh with 1207.21.

NTA data showed a significant rise in participation this year compared to 2025. The number of registered candidates increased by over 15%, while the number of female candidates rose by nearly 20%, indicating stronger participation by women and a narrowing gender gap in registrations.

Female candidates accounted for 7.74 lakh registrations and 5.85 lakh appearances, while 7.94 lakh male candidates registered and 5.78 lakh appeared for the examination. English remained the most preferred medium, with over 13.22 lakh registrations, followed by Hindi with 2.18 lakh registrations.

A total of 244 universities participated in CUET-UG 2026, up from 241 institutions last year, according to the agency.

Minister Kirti Vardhan Singh with a rescued jumbo calf at Abhayaranyam Elephant Rehabilitation Centre in Kaprikkad, Kerala, on Tuesday. PTI

Mysore District Co-Operative Milk Producers'Societies Union Ltd.,
Bannur Road, Alanahalli Post, Mysuru-570028.
Phone No. 0821-2474475, Fax No.0821-2474476,
e - mail : purmymul@gmail.com

Short Term Tender Notification (Through e-procurement only)

Mysore Dist. Co-Op Ltd Milk Union Ltd., Mysore Invites tender from eligible Tenderers for the Supply of the following materials/services through e-procurement portal. For the tender document please visit e-procurement platform at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sl No	Tender Notification No.	Items(Details)	Last Date for Submission of Tender
1	KMF/2026-27/SE5291	Insurance coverage for Cross Breed Heifers / Cows/ Local Cows / Buffaloes for 01 years (approximate 40000 cattle) to Mega Dairy, Mymul.	30.06.2026 Before 05:00PM
2	KMF/2026-27/IND2336	Supply of ghee pet jar labels in rolls on annual rate contract basis and supply of SMP metalized foils to Mymul.	
3	KMF/2026-27/IND2337	Supply of Alphonso mango pulp on annual rate contract basis and supply of laptops to Mega Dairy, Mymul.	
4	KMF/2026-27/IND2295 CALL-2	Supply of 100ml and 50ml ghee pet jars on biannual rate contract basis to Mega Dairy, Mymul.	01.07.2026 Before 05:00PM
5	KMF/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT451	Extension of existing dispatch dock at Mega Dairy, Mymul.	
6	KMF/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT452	Construction of alternate drain line and collection sump at existing ETP, Mega Dairy, Mymul.	
7	KMF/2026-27/IND2335	Supply and installation of mezzanaine floor and SS door to Mega dairy, Mymul.	

For further information please contact Purchase Department during working hours. **(Mobile No: 6366430821, 9482231739).**
Sd/- Managing Director
Mysore District Co-Operative Milk Union Ltd.,

For 2nd time, Japanese PM's Guwahati visit cancelled

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Sanae Takaichi.

The visit of Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi to Guwahati, scheduled on July 1, has been cancelled due to "unavoidable reasons," Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma told reporters here on Tuesday.

Takaichi is set to visit India from July 1 to 3, which will be her first trip to the country after becoming prime minister. Her visit will now remain limited to New Delhi only, Sarma said.

Given Takaichi's domestic commitments, including an ongoing session of the Japanese parliament, the window between her proposed arrival in India and her departure is quite tight, said one of the people familiar with the matter.

"We were very hopeful about the Japanese PM's visit to Guwahati. But last night, our foreign secretary, Vikram Misri, informed our Chief Secretary that Takaichi's visit to Guwahati has been cancelled. We can't ask them about the reasons due to the protocol. But I will try to enquire about the reason when I visit New Delhi next and meet our foreign minister," Sarma said.

"However, we have been informed that a visit by a Japanese delegation of business leaders to Assam will be scheduled later at an appropriate time," Sarma added.

This was for the second time that the Japanese PM's Guwahati trip was cancelled. A similar scheduled tour was cancelled in 2019 following violent protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act that had rocked the city and the rest of Assam.

The BJP-led Assam government led by Sarma was gearing up to project the state as a major destination for investment, trade and tourism before the Japanese PM in view of significant improvement in the law and order situation and infrastructure in Assam in the past few years.

(*With PTI inputs*)

Hyderabad gets Donald Trump road, Google Street next

HYDERABAD, DHNS: The country's hi-tech city is paving a new way to deepen its relationship with the US—by renaming roads.

On Tuesday, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor and Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka unveiled a ceremonial plaque commemorating the renaming of the road adjoining the US Consulate as 'Donald Trump Avenue'.

The next is a road stretch along Google's upcoming campus at Hyderabad's Financial District that will be named 'Google Street', recognising the global impact and contribution of Google Maps and the corporation at large.

Last year, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, while addressing the annual US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) conclave in Delhi, had proposed naming important roads in Hyderabad after leading global corporations, including Google.

"This special designation by the Government of Telangana honours the US and reflects Hyderabad's growing role as a cornerstone of US-India engagement," a US consulate official said.

MSIL Mysore Sales International Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Administration Department
MSIL House, No. 36, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560 052.
Phone: 080-22264021/25
No.: MSIL/Admin/076/2026-27 Date: 24.06.2026

NOTIFICATION

The Final Selection List for the posts of **Sales Representative** has been published on the official website and is also displayed on the notice board of the Head Office.

Sd/- Chief Administrative Officer

Government of Karnataka
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Belagavi

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.:ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ಎಬಿ/ಪಿಬಿ–3/ಟೆಂಡರ್–15/2026–27/ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–06–2026

Tender Invited (E- Procurement)

Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Belagavi hereby invited tender from Registered Contractors for the Item rates through kppp Portal. There are total 17 (**27466, 27461, 27459, 27467, 27468, 27470, 27458, 27482, 27469, 27472,27471, 27460, 27517, 27049/CALL-2, 16814/CALL-2, 3707/CALL-3, 27516**) work have been called, Standard of tender documents KW-1, 2, 3 for price of Highest and Lowest Estimated Cost Rs. **70.00** Lakhs and Rs. 5.19 Lakh respectively and also Highest and Lowest EMD has As Per E-procurement for each work. The last date for Submission of any Quarries is **07-07-2026 17:28 PM,** the last date for submission of tender bid is on **07-07-2026 17:28 PM.** Opening of technical bid is on **09-07-2026 11-00 AM** and Expected Financial bid will be opened on **09-07-2026 11:30 AM.** For any other information/ clarifications please contact the below signed office, and also search internet for kppp-Portal website **http://kppp-proc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
P.R.E. Division, Belagavi

DIPR/Belagavi/486/2026-27/Deshpandepublicity

Government of Karnataka - Karnataka Forest Department
Office of The Chief Conservator of Forests, Working Plan and Survey, Shivamogga

e-Tender Notice No.: WPSS/A2/RCCP/e-tender/CR-16/2026-27 Date: 19.06.2026

e-Tender Notice Through KPP Portal

e-Tenders are invited through e-procurement for total 36 works of total approx. amount Rs. 79.38 lakhs for implementation of works of "Construction of RCC Pillars of Specified Dimension at the given locations along the Surveyed Notified Forests for the purpose of Boundary Demarcation in the Divisions of Shivamogga, Bhadravathi, Sagar, Mangaluru, Kundapura and Kudremukh Wildlife during the year 2026-27."Interested, eligible, PWDContractors of Class 4 / above class, having license from competent Authority of PWDcan submit tenders as per KPP Portal within evening of 06.07.2026. Can participate in the tender by confirming the details as published in the e-Administrative Center or website (https://kppp.karnataka. gov.in) For more information this office can be contacted during office hours on Phone No.: 08182-250785/or can contact during office hours by personal visit.

Sd/- (Jnanananda S.) Assistant Conservator of Forests, and Tender Inviting Authority,Office of Conservator of Forests, Working Plan and Survey, Shivamogga.

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/105/06/417

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA

No.EE:PWD:CTA:AE-2:Tender-13:2026-27 Dated:- 23.06.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following works through KPPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules.

Name of work:- Head of Account 5054-80-190-0-01-132 – KRDCL Bridge:- (1) Construction of Bridge on Nerlagunte-Thimmapaiahnahally Road Near Jambaiahnahatty in Molkalmuru Constituency of Challakere Taluk, Chitradurga District (W.I.36288). Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-200.00
Head of Account 8443 Deposit Contribution:-(2) REPAIR AND RENOVATION WORK FOR SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OFFICE BUILDING DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATION AT DC OFFICE COMPOUND IN CHITRADURGA TOWN (W.I. 36232) Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-9.00
Sl No. 1 Tender dates are as mentioned below: Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 07-07-2026 Time: 17.30
Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 08-07-2026 Time: 16.00
Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 09-07-2026 Time:16.15
Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 13-07-2026 Time: 11.00
Sl No. 2 Tender dates are as mentioned below: Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 07-07-2026 Time: 17.30
Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 08-07-2026 Time: 16.00
Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 09-07-2026 Time: 16.15
Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 91 9240214000 and 91 9240214001.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/187/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD, Chitradurga.

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಹೊಸಪೇಟೆ.

No:60095/CMC HOSPETE/TENDER/2026-27 Dated:22-06-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT) E-PROCUREMENT

Tenders are invited for the work mentioned below as per KTPP act 2000 in two cover system are invited from the Contractors/Firms registered in KPWD as mentioned below. in e-procurement the contractors / firms will have to upload all information, documents and rates etc., www.eproc.karnataka.govt.in any other information required can be obtained from the office of the CMC Hosapete during the working hours.Tender Last Date:29-06-2026 TIME5.00 PM Opening for Technical Bid will be on Date:30-06-2026 TIME 5.30 PM OPENING PLACE OF TENDER: CMC HOSAPETE.TENDER DETAILS:**Providing and Laying HDPE Pipe line Balance Network for SiddalingappaChowki, Rajajinagar, Sameer Layout, Aravind Nagar, Valisab layout, Meenakshi Layout and other Lanes At Ward No 09 in Hosapete City.(DMA/2026-27/WT/WORK_INDENT60095) Estimated cost(in lakhs):Rs50.00**

Sd/- AssistantExecutive Engineer, CMC Hosapete Sd/- Municipal Commissioner CMC Hosapete.

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/152

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ

Email-Yellapurdcf5@yahoo.com, dcfyellapur@gmail.com

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.ಎ4:ಜಿಟಿಡಿ:ಹರಾಜು:ಜುಲೈ&ಆಗಸ್ಟ್:–2026:ಸಿಆರ್–3:2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.06.2026

ಅರಣ್ಯ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳ ಇ–ಹರಾಜಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ನಾಟಾ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಸ್ತಾನು ಇರುವ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳನ್ನು ಜುಲೈ ಮತ್ತು ಅಗಸ್ಟ್ –2026 ನೇ ಮಾಹೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಹರಾಜು ಮೂಲಕ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲು ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Govt Timber Depot Mundgod: 27.07.2026 to 30.07.2026 (All four sessions) and 31.07.2026 (Two sessions) First session 10:00 hrs To 10:45 hrs Second session 12:00 hrs to 12:45 hrs Third session 14:00 hrs to 14:45 hrs and Fourth session 16:00 hrs to 16:45 hrs. Govt Timber Depot Kirwatti: 01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026 (All four sessions) & 04.08.2026, (One sessions) 10:00 hrs To 10:45 hrs Second session 12:00 hrs to 12:45 hrs Third session 14:00 hrs to 14:45 hrs and Fourth session 16:00 hrs to 16:45 hrs.

ಸದರಿ ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸವಿಸ್ತಾರ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.ಎ4:ಜಿಟಿಡಿ:ಹರಾಜು:ಜುಲೈ&ಆಗಸ್ಟ್:2026:ಸಿಆರ್–3:2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:–18.06.2026 ರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರ ಪಡೆಯಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ಹಾಗೂ ಡಿಪೋ ಕಛೇರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ–ಹರಾಜಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **www.mstcecommerce.com & www.etimber.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳ ಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಹರಾಜಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ವಿಳಾಸವನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

(1) ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ
yellapurdcf5@yahoo.com, dcfyellapur@gmail.com 08419-261273
(2) ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಸರಕಾರಿ ಮರಮಟ್ಟು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಾಲಯ, ಕಿರವತ್ತಿ
acfgtdkwt@gmail.com 08419-238534
(3) ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಸರಕಾರಿ ಮರಮಟ್ಟು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಾಲಯ, ಮುಂಡಗೋಡ
acfgtdmundgod@gmail.com 08301-222152
(4) ಶ್ರೀ ದಾಮೋದರ ಮ್ಯಾನೇಜರ್ ಎಮ್.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ.ಸಿ.ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
kafd@mstcindia.co.in 98410022252, 9535347426, 9980147110

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/229/26-27 dt. 23.06.2026

ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL,
No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

No:EE/ KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra / 2nd Tender Notification No: 05/2026-27: Dated: 20.06.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION 2nd Call (Through E-Procurement Portal only)

Percentage Tenders by e-procurement portal in the prescribed form is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore from the eligible Contractor under the Head of Account 4701 Bhadra. The No. of work is 01. The approximate cost of amount put to tender is varies from **Rs.2033.84 Lakhs.** The amount of EMD is varies from **Rs.20.33 Lakhs (Rs.1.00 lakhs e-cash balance amt e-BG Rs.19.33 lakhs)** (by kpp portal) contractors can access and submission of completed e-tendering documents from **20.06.2026** to **02.07.2026 upto 17.30 hours** in the website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Technical Bid will be opened on **03.07.2026 at 17.30** hours and **after obtaining approval of technical bid from competent authority** Financial bid will be opened. Pre-Bid Meeting on Dtd: **30.06.2026 @ 11.00 Hrs** at O/o Executive Engineer, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi. Stipulated period for the completion of work is **12 Months (Including monsoon).**

For more conditions and details visit website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** OR at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No. **8660573513.**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer. KNNL,
No.4, BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

DIPR/SMG/No-99-06/zenkar/2026-27

In 43-minute speech, Vijay vows to weed out graft, rips into DMK

Takes swipe at Stalin's party over claim that TVK govt was running at its mercy

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay speaks during the Legislative Assembly session, in Chennai. PTI

Vowing to root out corruption, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Tuesday said he would not touch even a "single paisa" of people's money and that his government would take action against the parties which "misused people's money" in the past.

In his reply to the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's address, Vijay spoke for 43 minutes — the longest speech in his two-and-a-half-year political career — in which he played to the gallery, while tearing into the principal Opposition, DMK, and ignoring AIADMK.

"Our government will never indulge in corruption. The money looted in TASMAC in the name of party funds is now being brought back to the government treasury," he said. "We will not touch even a single paisa of the people's money. Nor will we allow anyone else to touch it. We will not spare those who misused it in the past," he added.

During his speech, Vijay also addressed the oft-repeated criticism against him that he doesn't speak much, saying, "why do people (DMK) keep asking me to speak" after knowing what just five minutes of his address in Kolathur did to them, in a veiled reference to M K Stalin's defeat from the constituency.

He also narrated a "short story", which didn't go well with many, narrating the absence of Stalin from the Assembly–Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin responded to this outside the House by making comments about the divorce case involving the Chief Minister.

Vijay took a swipe at DMK for saying that the TVK government was functioning at its mercy. "The CPM says it took a decision on its own to support us and the CPI also says the same. This government is for the people and it doesn't run on anyone's mercy," he added.

Meanwhile, the Tamil Nadu government on Tuesday announced the cancellation of a commercial multi-level car parking project initiated by the previous DMK government in Coonoor using temple funds.

Security agencies prepare for possible Amarnath Yatra threats

SRINAGAR, DHNS: Security agencies are rehearsing responses to contingencies that have never confronted the Amarnath Yatra before, officials said on Tuesday.

They said the focus was not limited to conventional militant threats along the yatra routes but also included preparing for contingencies that have never confronted the pilgrimage before. Drone intrusions, attacks on crowded facilities, hostage situations, mass-casualty emergencies and natural disaster scenarios are among the areas of preparedness.

"The objective is preparedness for every contingency and seamless coordination among all stakeholders," a senior security officer associated with the exercise said. The annual pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas is scheduled to begin on July 3 and conclude on August 28.

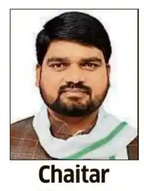
During a recent review meeting in New Delhi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah directed security agencies to establish an "impregnable multi-layered security grid" for the pilgrimage and make extensive use of technology for surveillance and monitoring.

CRPF Director General G P Singh, who reviewed arrangements in Kashmir last week, stressed the need for proactive measures and close coordination among agencies to ensure a safe pilgrimage.

Alongside security concerns, authorities are also focusing on disaster preparedness.

Guj AAP MLA, 8 others get jail for assaulting officials

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS



Chaitar Vasava

A local court on Tuesday sentenced firebrand Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA and tribal leader Chaitar Vasava to seven years' imprisonment after convicting him in a 2023 case involving the assault and extortion of forest department officials.

A district sessions court in Rajpipla, Narmada District, held Vasava, his wife Shakuntala, and seven others guilty on various charges, sentencing them to a seven-year jail term along with a fine of Rs 25,000 each.

It was alleged that Vasava grabbed the collar of the forest officials, slapped him while also firing in the air to create fear, and extorted Rs 60,000 as compensation for the crop damage. The other seven guilty are individuals closely associated with the AAP legislator, including his personal assistant.

The husband-wife and others were facing trial for rioting, extortion, assault and threatening a public servant in discharging his duty among other charges.

The case was registered in 2023 after forest officials visited Vasava's residence in connection with a government land encroachment case by some villagers in Narmada district.

The incident occurred after forest officials objected to the illegal encroachment of forest land by two co-accused, who were cultivating cotton on the disputed plot.

Additional Sessions Justice Atulkumar Hirpara pronounced the judgement holding that the convicts were involved in a serious offence.

The judgement stated that all the accused, including Vasava, an MLA from Dediapada and an influential person, formed an unlawful assembly and threatened to cause harm and assaulted the government servant.

Andhra Police take inspector in custody over alleged prison death of youth

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Andhra Pradesh police have taken a circle inspector into custody following sustained pressure from multiple quarters over the alleged custodial torture and murder of a 25-year-old youth.

The TDP-led NDA government had faced mounting criticism for its failure to arrest Lanka Nagaraju, a circle inspector posted at the Krishna Lanka police station in Vijayawada, more than a month after a local youth went missing under suspicious circumstances.

The victim, Gade Sai Krishna, against whom several criminal cases were reportedly pending, was picked up by police last month and has not been seen since. His mother subsequently approached the state High Court seeking justice. Responding to mounting pressure, the government constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by an officer of Inspector General rank to probe the matter.

Though Nagaraju was suspended a few days ago, he was formally taken into custody on Tuesday from his home in Singh Nagar. In a striking turn of events, local residents rallied in support of the suspended officer. When SIT officers arrived to take Nagaraju into custody, a section of the crowd attempted to obstruct the arrest. Additional personnel were deployed to manage the situation, and the SIT team was ultimately able to detain the circle inspector without further incident.

Gade Sai Krishna, around 25, who had prior criminal cases pending against him, was reportedly picked up by Vijayawada Krishna Lanka police on May 9 in connection with an ongoing investigation.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

WHAT'S A SEVEN-LETTER WORD FOR "ANNOYED"?
THAT DEPENDS
IS IT A LITTLE ANNOYED OR A LOT ANNOYED?
ANNOYED ANNOYED
THIS ISN'T ABOUT YOUR CROSSWORD PUZZLE, IS IT?
WHAT'S A TWO-LETTER WORD FOR "NO"?

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

THAT'S A BIG BAG OF CHIPS
IT'S RESEALABLE. I'M NOT GOING TO EAT IT ALL
PARTY SIZE CHIPZ
UGH! IT WON'T CLOSE. NOW I'LL HAVE TO FINISH THEM
GREG+MORT WALKER

Peanuts

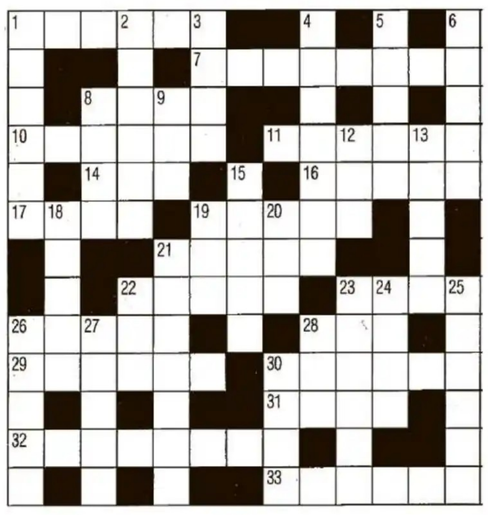
THIS IS MY REPORT ON PEOPLE...
THERE ARE GOOD PEOPLE, THERE ARE BAD PEOPLE AND THERE ARE MEDIUM PEOPLE.. THIS IS THE WAY IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN...
THIS IS PROBABLY THE WAY IT ALWAYS WILL BE
I'M TOO YOUNG TO WORRY ABOUT IT

Marvin

I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO MOVE ALL YOUR THINGS TO A NEW CUBICLE, JEFF
WHEN?
MY CALENDAR SAYS IT NEEDED TO HAPPEN LAST FRIDAY. SO YOU'RE LATE
BUT YOU'RE ONLY INFORMING ME NOW!
I'M JUST TELLING YOU WHAT MY CALENDAR SAYS

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12445

CRYPTIC



ACROSS
1 Find (6)
7 Gambling game (8)
8 Ado (4)
10 Goalkeeper (6)
11 Boy's name (6)
14 Moisten (3)
16 Pass on (5)
17 Bombast (4)
19 Wanderer (5)
21 A shelter (5)
22 Mature (5)
23 End part (4)
26 French capital (5)
28 Transgression (3)
29 Takes on (6)
30 Main circus tent (3,3)
31 Fencing sword (4)
32 Remorseful (8)
33 Star sign (6)

DOWN
1 Accounts book (6)
2 A charm (6)
3 Gaelic (4)
4 Unplaced horse (4-3)
5 Iron alloy (5)
6 Trivial (5)
8 Young deer (4)
9 Take a seat (3)
12 Sleeping place (3)
13 Synagogue minister (5)
15 Group of witches (5)
18 In front (5)
19 Doze (3)
20 Blokes (3)
21 Past events (7)
22 Rend (3)
23 Big cats (6)
24 Poker stake (4)
25 Leprosy victims (6)
26 Protective eye covering (5)
27 Circular (5)
28 Drink gingerly (3)
30 Sound of a car horn (4)

ACROSS
1 Clever bighead, never wrong (6)
7 Evidently striking old people? (8)
8 She may nag if we upset her (4)
10 Sourly referring to a department duly halved (6)
11 Smart new purse made out of cowhide, initially (6)
14 Like something new into which one can change (3)
16 He needs a tin opener and a new suit (5)
17 Look pronouncedly like a king of the theatre (4)
19 Forbidden style for a boot (5)
21 Rod's out to back it, darling (5)
22 Chap born to be boozy around April 4th (5)
23 They may amuse you to the end of your days (4)
26 Player of a soft and ripe interpretation (5)
28 An incipient bloomer (3)
29 Be first to get to the fore with heavy metal (4,2)
30 Is it altogether bound to be a large sum? (6)
31 To us, points of advantage (4)
32 Mary lets loose just like a man! (8)
33 Breathless, she can show poise (6)

DOWN
1 Bawl, i.e., in miserable style (6)
2 A leading lady and good Scots queen (6)
3 The ones to take a little money from a Poet Laureate (4)
4 Funnily, he and his son found fame on TV (7)
5 A proud walk in support of something (5)
6 Pieces of land, possibly one less (5)
8 Points out half of it is alcoholic! (4)
9 She gave Ziegfeld a start (3)
12 Ferdinand has the right figure for a footballer (3)
13 Soft, a bit cute and bashful (5)
15 Suitable proportion for a lion-hearted rodent! (5)
18 She can only play one note on the fife (5)
19 A vessel (among the last U-boats?) (3)
20 Has it a disturbing content? (3)
21 A fine headdress means nothing, covered in ice-cream! (7)
22 Bright colour means a lot to soldiers (3)
23 Prepare to play a melody better? (4,2)
24 But they may be even (4)
25 Momentarily, you may have a hand in it (6)
26 Fat, soft piece (5)
27 Dad's way is old-fashioned (5)
28 It can be stopped by request (3)
30 Purchases made by us (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12444

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, AM-our 6, Skint 9, Pontoon 10, Anise 11, Lions 12, Cubit 13, Bar-one-t. 15, Fed 17, Eyot 18, Kim-o-n-o 19, Sla-NT 20, Pro-NT-o 22, Pu-re 24, Oar 25, P-L-eased 26, Small 27, S-trip 28, CIVIL 29, Ted-IOUs 30, Id-le-d 31, Thief.
DOWN: 2, Monda-y 3, Upshot 4, Roe 5, Stout 6, So-licit 7, Knit 8, Nansen 12, Cello 13, Be-ppo 14, R-O-tor 15, Focus 16, Dot-Ed 18, K-Nell 19, Stumped 21, Ra-TT-ed 22, Par-ish 23, RE-side 25, PLA-in 26, Site 28, (the) Cut.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Scrap 6, Samba 9, Balding 10, Giddy 11, Ounce 12, Fibre 13, Hatchet 15, Gel 17, Exit 18, Revere 19, Flail 20, Operas 22, Bare 24, Nor 25, Shelter 26, Giant 27, Craig 28, Attic 29, Rubbish 30, Cycle 31, Senna.
DOWN: 2, Climax 3, Abduct 4, Pay 5, Admit 6, Snorkel 7, Ague 8, Backer 12, Feels 13, Heron 14, Tiber 15, Get at 16, Lever 18, Right 19, Fatigue 21, Poorly 22, Blithe 23, Region 25, Snubs 26, Girl 28, Ass.

◆ SU-DO-KU-6940 ◆

	1	4						2
	2		6					
3					2			
	4	9	7					8
2	6		9		5		1	3
5					4	9	7	
			4					1
					7		2	
8						5	3	

hard

SOLUTION TO 6939

6	2	1	8	5	7	4	9	3
3	5	9	2	6	4	8	1	7
4	8	7	3	9	1	5	6	2
7	6	3	5	1	2	9	4	8
2	4	5	6	8	9	3	7	1
9	1	8	4	7	3	2	5	6
1	7	4	9	3	8	6	2	5
5	3	2	7	4	6	1	8	9
8	9	6	1	2	5	7	3	4

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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C3 A1 E1 O1 L1 T1 Y4 — 5th Letter Triple
O1 K5 D2 D2 E1 E1 C3
S1 M3 P3 T1 T1 E1 E1 — Triple Word Score
R1 N1 S1 P3 E1 D2 O1

RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4

PAR SCORE 180-190
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

C3 H4 E1 A1 P3 E1 R1
B3 O1 R1 R1 O1 W4
G2 I1 R1 A1 F4 F4 E1
B3 R1 I1 C3 K5 I1 E1
L1 A1 M3 E1 L1 Y4

RACK 1 = 72
RACK 2 = 11
RACK 3 = 92
RACK 4 = 80
RACK 5 = 11
JUDD'S TOTAL 266

PAR SCORE 175-185

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SYAHT
GNEVI
RAOSIL
HDUROS

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

From my observations, I believe that it's the sun at the center, and we all travel around it.
You need to keep this idea to yourself. No one will accept this theory.
WHEN COPERNICUS THEORIZED THAT THE EARTH WENT AROUND THE SUN, IT WAS ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: JOIST LASSO SKETCH FAMOUS
Answer: The caterpillar went through metamorphosis, and everything had gone — SMOOTH AS SILK

HITORI-3394

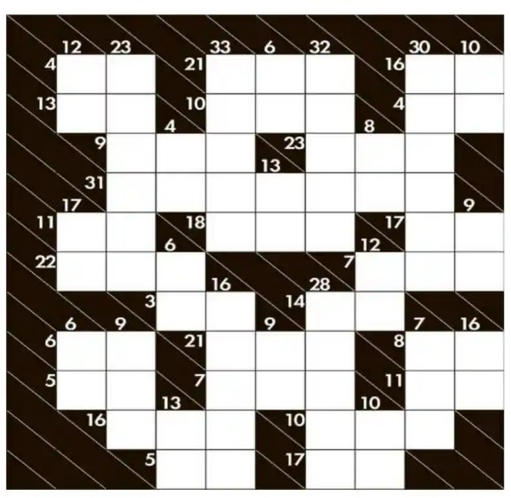
4	7	6	4	5	4	4	2
4	3	4	2	7	8	1	4
7	4	5	2	8	2	8	4
6	5	2	7	1	4	8	3
1	2	2	6	4	6	5	4
3	2	7	1	8	5	4	6
5	8	4	4	2	6	3	1
8	6	4	5	6	4	2	8

SOLUTION TO 3393

■	5	2	6	■	1	3	■
5	6	■	3	2	8	■	1
3	■	4	■	1	5	7	2
4	1	3	2	5	■	8	■
■	2	■	8	■	4	1	6
8	3	5	1	4	7	6	■
■	4	6	■	3	■	5	7
1	8	■	7	6	3	■	5

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3394



SOLUTION TO 3393

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3956

■					6	5	8	■
	1	7					6	
		■				■	7	
	8	4	3		2			
		3	1	■	4			
			■		7	2		
		■				■	4	7
	■				1		■	
5								8

SOLUTION TO 3955

7	3	1	2	4	5	6	9	8
2	9	5	6	7	8	1	4	3
8	6	4	9	1	3	2	7	5
9	4	2	3	8	6	5	1	7
1	7	8	4	5	9	3	2	6
6	5	3	7	2	1	4	8	9
4	2	9	5	6	7	8	3	1
5	1	7	8	3	2	9	6	4
3	8	6	1	9	4	7	5	2

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

India and China must respect each other's core interests: Wang

BEIJING, PTI: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has said it is "imperative" for India and China to respect each other's "core interests" and take concrete actions to implement the "important consensus" reached by the leaders of both countries.

Wang, who is in New Delhi to attend the BRICS NSA conference, made the remarks during his meeting with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Monday, according to China's state-run Xinhua news agency.

India is an important neighbour of China, and bilateral relations have returned to the path of recovery and improvement, said Wang, who is also a member of the Political Bureau of the ruling Communist Party of China and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs.

Wang noted that the leaders of the two countries agreed that China and India are partners rather than rivals, thereby forming the most strategic consensus between the two sides and providing important impetus and assurance for the healthy and stable development of relations, according to an official press release.

NYC carriage ban bill renamed after Indian teenager

NEW YORK, PTI: A bill that seeks to ban horse carriages in New York City has been renamed in honour of an Indian teenager who died after sustaining injuries in a horrific carriage incident in Central Park.

Romanch Mahajan, 18, lost his life after he fell from a horse-drawn carriage in Central Park last week. Mahajan had jumped off the carriage in an effort to help his mother, who fell out of it as the horse bolted. A vigil was held in Central Park on Monday to pay tribute to Mahajan.

New York City Council member Christopher Marte, who organised the event, announced that a bill introduced by him, named 'Ryder's Law', which seeks to ban horse-drawn carriages in New York City, will be changed to 'Romanch's Law' in honour of the teenager. Ryder's Law was named after Ryder, a 26-year-old carriage horse that collapsed in August 2022 while being forced to pull a carriage.

Israel should 'break free' from US military aid: Netanyahu

Israeli PM reiterates call to increase military autonomy

JERUSALEM, AFP

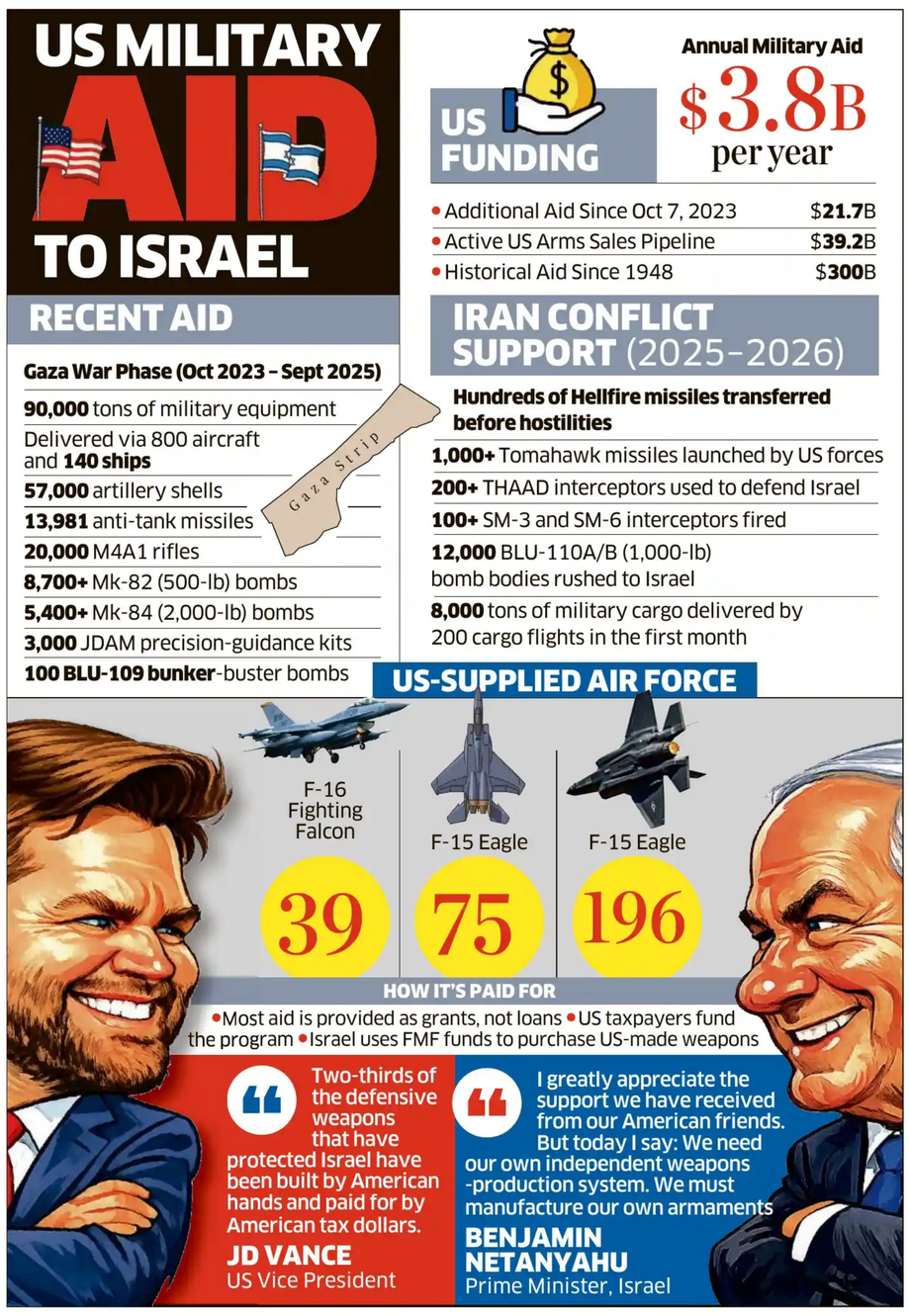
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu again called for his country to increase its military autonomy and reduce its reliance on support from the US, according to a statement released by his office on Tuesday.

"I deeply appreciate the support we have received from our American friends, but we need to break free from dependency and build our own independent armaments network," the premier told reserve officers on a training course in the occupied West Bank.

Netanyahu was speaking on June 18, a day after the US and Iran agreed an initial deal to end the West Asia war, which has been fiercely opposed in Israel. "Today I say: We need our own independent armaments network. We must manufacture our own armaments," Netanyahu said.

Since its founding in 1948, Israel has received over $300 billion, adjusted for inflation, in US economic and military assistance, according to figures from the Council on Foreign Relations, far more than any other country has received since 1946.

Under an agreement signed in 2016 and in force since 2019, it receives financial assistance for the purchase of around $3.8 billion worth of weapons a year, accounting for around 15% of the defence budget. That deal runs until 2028. The Israeli premier has previously said he wanted to end Israel's reliance on US support.


US MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL
RECENT AID
Gaza War Phase (Oct 2023 – Sept 2025)
90,000 tons of military equipment
Delivered via 800 aircraft and 140 ships
57,000 artillery shells
13,981 anti-tank missiles
20,000 M4A1 rifles
8,700+ Mk-82 (500-lb) bombs
5,400+ Mk-84 (2,000-lb) bombs
3,000 JDAM precision-guidance kits
100 BLU-109 bunker-buster bombs
Gaza Strip
US FUNDING
Annual Military Aid
$3.8B per year
Additional Aid Since Oct 7, 2023 $21.7B
Active US Arms Sales Pipeline $39.2B
Historical Aid Since 1948 $300B
IRAN CONFLICT SUPPORT (2025–2026)
Hundreds of Hellfire missiles transferred before hostilities
1,000+ Tomahawk missiles launched by US forces
200+ THAAD interceptors used to defend Israel
100+ SM-3 and SM-6 interceptors fired
12,000 BLU-110A/B (1,000-lb) bomb bodies rushed to Israel
8,000 tons of military cargo delivered by 200 cargo flights in the first month
US-SUPPLIED AIR FORCE
F-16 Fighting Falcon
F-15 Eagle
F-15 Eagle
39
75
196
HOW IT'S PAID FOR
•Most aid is provided as grants, not loans •US taxpayers fund the program •Israel uses FMF funds to purchase US-made weapons
Two-thirds of the defensive weapons that have protected Israel have been built by American hands and paid for by American tax dollars.
JD VANCE
US Vice President
I greatly appreciate the support we have received from our American friends. But today I say: We need our own independent weapons -production system. We must manufacture our own armaments
BENJAMIN NETANYAHU
Prime Minister, Israel

In January, he told The Economist that he hoped to do so within a decade, while in May he told US broadcaster CBS that he wanted support to reach "zero". Washington is Israel's closest ally, but the two have clashed over the conduct of Israel's wars since the Hamas attack of October 7, 2023. US President Donald Trump has been publicly critical of Netanyahu in recent weeks as Israel's war with Hezbollah in Lebanon threatened peace talks with Iran.

The president also swore in public while condemning Israel and Iran for breaching a ceasefire that ended last year's 12-day war.

US and Iran offer conflicting accounts of nuclear talks

NYT NEWS SERVICE: President Donald Trump and Iran offered conflicting accounts on Tuesday over whether Iran had agreed to open some of its most sensitive nuclear sites to UN inspectors, as top officials from both countries sought to secure support for a lasting peace agreement.

After the latest marathon round of US-Iran negotiations, differing narratives have also emerged over two other key issues: the safe passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz and frozen Iranian assets. The disputes reflect not just the high stakes of the talks, but also the complexity of details still to be resolved. Trump insisted in a social media post that Iran had "fully and completely agreed to the highest level Nuclear inspections", hours after two Iranian officials said the nuclear programme had not been discussed in detail during talks over the weekend in Switzerland.

The president accused Iranians of making false statements and said: "If they did not agree to this, there would be no further negotiations!"

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Esmail Baghaei, said earlier on Tuesday that Iran had no plans to invite inspectors from the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to nuclear sites that were hit by US and Israeli airstrikes in June 2025. "It is too early to discuss these things," Ali Bahreini, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, said at a separate news conference.

40 drown in France amid scorching temperatures

Half of France under red alert as extreme heatwave persists

PARIS, AP/PTI

Millions of people across France woke up drenched in sweat on Tuesday after another night of scorching heat, with most of the population exposed to extreme and exceptional temperatures, while 40 people died from drowning over the past five days across the country.

Temperatures will remain high around the clock as the national weather service, Meteo France, placed 54 departments under a red heatwave alert. That is about half of the country. French Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu said after a crisis meeting that the 40 people who had died by drowning since last Thursday were mainly young people.

In a country without widespread air conditioning, schools, trains and sporting events remain affected.

Human-caused climate change is linked to increasingly extreme weather, and UN climate agency projections indicate that the next five years could shatter more heat records.

"Sunshine continues to dominate across France, maintaining oppressive and exhausting heat throughout the country," Meteo France said. Extreme conditions are expected to last at least until the end of the week, with daytime highs above 40°C in many towns. "Further record-breaking temperatures are expected, including some that could surpass all previous records, regardless of the time of year," Meteo France said.

The heatwave is exceptionally intense, arriving very early in the summer, "but with a still uncertain duration", the weather service said. It has already been compared with the August 2003 heatwave, when the highest temperatures in more than half a century caused an estimated 15,000 deaths, many among older people in apartments and retirement homes without air conditioning.

Two women cool off in a fountain at Place des Vosges in Paris on Tuesday, as France experiences heatwave. AFP

Iran, Oman to study Hormuz management

MUSCAT, AFP

Iran and Oman said on Tuesday they would study the future administration of the Strait of Hormuz and the costs associated with services provided along the strategic waterway, while reaffirming their sovereignty over its territorial waters.

The announcement came after meetings in Muscat between Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq and Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi. The two sides agreed to continue discussions through a joint working group to examine navigation arrangements and service-related charges in line with international standards.

The move comes amid debate over Iran's proposal to impose what it calls maritime service fees for vessels crossing the strait.

Oman, however, stressed its commitment to ensuring toll-free and safe passage through the route.

The development coincided with a sharp US response. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Washington "would not accept any attempt to impose tolls or fees" on the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping lane through which global oil supplies pass.

Rubio's remarks came as the US and Iran began a 60-day negotiation process following a preliminary agreement aimed at ending the recent conflict. The two sides have already completed an initial round of talks in Switzerland to address issues including sanctions relief and Iran's nuclear programme.

UN plans evacuation of 11,000 stranded seafarers

DUBAI, AP/PTI: A United Nations agency said on Tuesday that a plan is underway to evacuate 11,000 stranded seafarers through the Strait of Hormuz.

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) announced the plan. Its Secretary-General, Arsenio Dominguez, said in a statement that "this large-scale operation will be carried out in close cooperation with Iran, Oman, all other coastal states in the region, the US and the maritime industry."

"We have secured the necessary safety guarantees and have thoroughly verified the conditions for safe navigation to support these operations," he said.

The IMO's announcement included instructions from Oman on how ships could travel through the strait.

However, the uneasy ceasefire has already been tested, with Iran saying it closed the strait again following fighting between Israel and the Iranian-backed militia Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Russia considers diesel export ban amid fuel shortages

MOSCOW, REUTERS

WAR IMPACT

- Authorities are discussing fuel imports, particularly to ease shortages in Crimea and other affected regions.
- Brazil and Turkey are among the largest importers of Russian diesel.

Russia is considering a diesel export ban, Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said on Tuesday, while a newspaper reported that fuel imports were also being considered to tackle shortages, particularly in Crimea, which has tightened restrictions on public life and services.

Russian President Vladimir Putin also made his first comments about Ukraine's recent strikes on civilian infrastructure, including on Moscow's oil refinery, saying they were a ploy to destabilise society.

He also called on the government to take additional measures to offset the consequences of the strikes.

Numerous regions across Russia, the world's third-largest crude producer, have reported restrictions on fuel sales, rising prices for oil products and long queues at filling stations. Russia normally exports various oil products as well as crude. However, Ukrainian attacks on its refineries have forced it to ban exports of gasoline and jet fuel.

The Vedomosti newspaper reported that imports were discussed as an option at a meeting chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak on Monday.

Dozens held as Awami League marks anniversary

DHAKA, PTI: Dozens of activists of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's now-disbanded Awami League party were arrested as they staged sporadic street marches to mark the party's 77th founding anniversary in defiance of a nationwide security ban.

Founded on June 23, 1949, when present-day Bangladesh was East Pakistan, the Awami League is the country's oldest political party and led the nation's 1971 Liberation War.

The party was disbanded by the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government after Hasina was toppled on August 5, 2024, following a violent student-led street protest dubbed the July Uprising. The move was later endorsed by Parliament under the government led by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman.

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA)

Government of India
3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport,
New Delhi-110003, Ph.: 011-24695044

PUBLIC NOTICE

STAKEHOLDERS' CONSULTATION MEETING ON DETERMINATION OF TARIFF FOR THE AERONAUTICAL SERVICES FOR RAJIV GANDHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, HYDERABAD (HYD) FOR THE FOURTH CONTROL PERIOD (01.04.2026 - 31.03.2031)

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) has issued Consultation Paper No. 02/2026-27 on 19.06.2026 (which is available on AERA website at URL www.aera.gov.in) w.r.t the Tariff Determination for the Aeronautical Services for Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad (HYD) for the Fourth Control Period (01.04.2026 - 31.03.2031).

In accordance with the provision of Section 13(4) of the AERA Act, 2008, the various tariff proposals of the Authority contained in the Consultation Paper, are put forth for Stakeholders' Consultation. A Stakeholders Consultation Meeting in hybrid mode (Physical/Online) in this regard is scheduled on 6th July, 2026 (Monday) at 3:30 PM at:

Stakeholders Room, 3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi - 110003

All stakeholders like Passengers/Passengers' Associations, General Public, Airport Operators, Airlines, Industry Associations/ Bodies, Independent Service providers for Cargo, Ground Handing Fuel Farm etc., are requested to join the said meeting and give their valuable suggestions/comments/views on the aforesaid Consultation Paper on tariff proposal of Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad (HYD).

Participants joining in person may send their confirmation to AERA by 5th July, 2026 with Name, email address, mobile number, vehicle number by email **(to director-ps@aera.gov.in and rajan.guptal@aera.gov.in).** Online link will be shared on AERA website **(https://aera.gov.in)** before the Stakeholders meeting under Tab **"News and Announcements".**

Sd/-
Secretary, AERA

CBC 03112/12/0006/2627

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

E-Tender Notice No. RN-ST-11 -2026-27 Dated: 19-06-2026. Works tenders through "E" Tendering system for and on behalf of the president of India are invited for the works as detailed below:- **Tender No. RN-ST-11-2026-27. Name of work:** Comprehensive Annual maintenance Contract of Deltron make UFSBI for a period of 02 (Two) years in Rangiya Division. **Tender Value:** ₹3,02,47,685.76/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹6,05,000/-. **Date & time of Closing of tender:** At **15.00** hrs. & opening at **15.30** hrs. on **24-07-2026** at Sr. DSTE/Rangiya office. The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available in the website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Asstt. DSTE/Rangiya

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our clients have negotiated to purchase the schedule property from it owner **Sri. S K Sanjeevi,** S/o Sri. S K Narasaraju, Aged about 59 years, R/at: No.97, 8th Cross, Sadashivnagar, Bangalore-560080. Any person/s having any claim or objection for the proposed sale may contact the undersigned with all relevant document within **TEN** days from the date of this publication, whereafter no such claims will be entertained and clients will proceed to purchase the schedule property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential immovable property bearing No: 388, HIG-SFHS, II Stage, 23rd Block, Rajmahal Villas extension, Bangalore 560046, measuring east to west 16.90 meters (55.6 feet) and North to South 18340 meters (60.5 feet), totally admeasuring 310.96 square meters, (3363.8 Square feet), with Building with & bounded as follows:

East by : By House No.387;
West by : By House No.389;
North by : By 11th Main Road; and
South by : House No.374.

Harish Ananthmurthy,
Legal i,
Advocates & Solicitors,
601, Ground Level, 3rd Main Road, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore-560080.

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar 841221

E- Open Tender Notice No.:-S/RWP/ E/ 2026-27/ 11, Dated : 20.06.2026 Principal Chief Materials Manager/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the President of India invites online "e-Open Tender", through Indian Railways E-Procurement Website www.ireps.gov.in for supply of following Stores item at RWP/Bela. The closing time of all tenders is 14:00 hrs. SN.-1. Tender No.: 01261060, Short Description of item : Aluminium Star, Quantity : 13000 Kgs., Due Date / Time of closing : 17.07.2026 at 14:00 Hrs., 1. Website address, on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is www.ireps.gov.in.

For PCMM
RWP/CPRO/Advt/2026-27/39

ENGINEERING WORKS

Tender Notice No. CON/2026/JUN/ 04; Dated: 17-06-2026. Open tender through e-tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed contractor (s)/firm(s) for the following works. **Tender No.** CE-CON-DK-EPC-2026-05. **Name of work:** "Construction of Balance Work of Single Line BG Tunnel No. 10 Main Tunnel (Length-1924 m) and Escape Tunnel (Length-1630 m) and other ancillary Works between Ch. 60760.0 m to Ch. 66280.0 m in Piphema to Menguzuma Section in Connection with Dimapur-Kohima New BG Line Project". **Approximate Value:** ₹631,04,82,933.16/ -; E-tender will be closed at **14:30 hrs.** on **29-07-2026** and opened at **15:30 hrs.** on **04-08-2026.** For details of Tender please visit **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Chief Engineer/Con/NL Project/ Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
(Construction Organisation)
"Serving Customers with a smile"

TENDER

Tender is hereby invited from Indian **Citizen to run Cafeteria (inside the premises) at 26ED. AF and Barber, Tailor, Vegetable Shop and Cafeteria at Gagan Vihar domestic Camp, Murugeshpalya, Bengaluru for the period of 01 year w.e.f. 01 Aug 26.** Application form may be obtained from OIC SI Fund, 26ED, AF, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore-17 by **29 Jun 26 and submitted by 06 Jul 26.** Preference over civilian would be given to war widows, Ex-servicemen/Spouse/Widow of Ex-Servicemen are aligible.
For further query contact 9449372223/8762423521

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Material Management Department
('e' Tender Notice for the supply of Stores, No.EPS/15/2026)

PCMM/WCR on behalf of the President of India invites the following advertised tenders through E-procurement System. No manual/postal offers shall be entertained. Tenders can be accessed under the link website https:/ireps.gov.in" for details and for submission of Tender.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Short Description	Tendered Qty.	Due Date
1	30261807	Vestibule Bellow Top Complete for Gangway of LHB type coaches	448 Nos.	14/07/2026
2	8125WCRTP -25	Manufacture and supply of Metal Liners 60 kg for use with ERC MK-III flat toe on PSC sleepers for 60 kg (UIC) rail	11000000 Nos.	16/07/2026
3	30261805	Vestibule Bellow Complete (RH Side) for Gangway of LHB type coaches	408 Nos.	20/07/2026
4	30261769	Set of Side Buffer Assly. (Helical Spring Type) (LH & RH) for LHB Coaches	42 Sets.	20/07/2026
5	30261021	Rear cover for axle box	3522 Nos.	22/07/2026
6	30262026	Set of brake cylinder for LHB coach	09 Sets.	04/08/2026
7	30261535	Secondary Spring Inner for LHB Non-AC coaches	302 Nos.	26/08/2026

" For tenders with estimated value below Rs. 50 lakh, interested firms are advised to visit www.ireps.gov.in"

Sd/-
Principal Chief Material Manager, WCR, Jabalpur

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

TRANSPARENCY CALL

AI firms should release carbon footprint data: UN

UNITED NATIONS, AP/PTI

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday called on artificial intelligence companies to release information about the carbon pollution they create, along with the water and land used to power their operations.

While urging action in an address at London Climate Action Week, Guterres proposed the AI Environmental Transparency Initiative, arguing that AI companies should measure and disclose the impact of their increasingly in-demand technology - an impact that has been cited by opponents as a reason to curb the rapid growth of data centres. These companies have faced mounting pressure, both from governments and from communities hosting data centres that support AI, for increased transparency and more standardised reporting.

Guterres said AI companies should also commit to powering their facilities with electricity produced with renewable technologies, such as wind and solar, by 2030.

"No more hidden costs," Guterres said at Europe's largest independent climate conference. "No more shifting the burden onto those least able to bear it. It is time to come clean." Many major tech companies have vowed to power their operations using cleaner sources, some by the end of the decade. Some plan to do so especially using solar and nuclear, including tech giants Amazon and Google.

Tata Motors PV plans Rs 40k cr capex in 5 yrs

NEW DELHI, PTI: Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd (TMPV) has lined up a capex of up to Rs 40,000 crore in the next five years, as it seeks to garner 20% share in the domestic market by nearly doubling its volumes to over 12 lakh units annually by FY31, according to its investor presentation.

TMPV plans to launch six new models by FY31, while it aims to have 13 lakh units annual capacity in 2-3 years, MD and CEO, Shailesh Chandra (in pic), said.

The domestic PV industry is expected to grow to 64 lakh units annually and electric vehicle volumes are projected to touch 10.11 lakh units annually by FY31, reaching 15-20% EV penetration, he said.

The overall median industry selling price will increase to around Rs 15 lakh from Rs 11-12 lakh in FY26, Chandra noted. TMPV has also set an ambition of 30% EV penetration for itself by FY31, with a portfolio of 10 EV models.

AI era needs fresh learning, new mental models: Nilekani

To tap $400-bn AI-first services opportunity by 2030

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Infosys
AGM highlights
Infosys sees $300-400 billion AI-first services opportunity by 2030
Collaborating with 90% of its top 200 clients on AI initiatives
Reached 15 million people through digital skilling initiatives
Recruited over 20,000 college graduates in FY26; Workforce of over 3,25,000
During fiscal 2026, Infosys completed two acquisitions: MRE Consulting Ltd and The Missing Link Group
"The AI deployment gap in our large enterprise clients is real, and closing that gap is where the work is. AI will not replace companies like ours (IT services firms). It will amplify those who move with purpose and adapt with speed.
- NANDAN M NILEKANI, Chairman, Infosys

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) era requires fresh learning and new mental models, and Infosys is systematically preparing its talent for this new era, while redeploying those released through productivity gains toward new areas of growth, said Infosys Chairman Nandan M Nilekani. Addressing shareholders at the company's 45th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday, he said the industry is going through a major technology transition and the company will tap into an AI-first services opportunity of $300-400 billion by 2030.

Nilekani did not speak anything about succession planning, with CEO Salil Parekh's term ending next March. He mentioned that Nitin Paranjpe, who is an Independent Director, has been appointed as Vice-Chairman of the company effective April 30, 2026.

"The AI deployment gap in our large enterprise clients is real, and closing that gap is where the work is. AI will not replace companies like ours (IT services firms). It will amplify those who move with purpose and adapt with speed," he further said.

The chairman also said there is much more to do in the software development life-cycle and that solutions must complement existing investments. "They demand rigorous testing, resilient architecture, and foundational cybersecurity. Data governance must reflect an organisation's own obligations, not the convenience of any external platform or provider."

AI revolution

He also mentioned that the AI revolution has made legacy modernisation urgent, and clients are moving to retire the technical debt accumulated over decades. The preference will be to build versus buy for software. "All this creates even larger opportunities for us. The defining opportunity lies in integrating intelligent AI systems with mission-critical enterprise platforms. The greatest value will come from combining the world of models and agents with traditional transaction systems that continue to underpin enterprise operations. That convergence is where the next wave of opportunities will emerge," the chairman stated.

In FY26, Infosys recruited over 20,000 college graduates and ended with a workforce of over 3,25,000. The company delivered $20.2 billion in revenues, growing 3.1% in constant currency. Large deal TCV (total contract value) for fiscal 2026 was at $14.9 billion, with 55% being net new.

"At Infosys, our purpose is to amplify human potential and create the next opportunity for people, businesses, and communities," he added.

Parekh spoke about AI opportunities and said 90% of the company's employees are AI-aware.

India diversifies LNG sourcing amid Gulf disruptions

Qatar, UAE account for 59% of total LNG imports in 2025

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

STRAIT STRATEGY

- Global LNG supply fell **17%**, but India's imports dipped only **5%** (April) and **2%** (May)
- **Alternative routes** and logistics helped ease the impact of reduced Gulf energy flows
- Producers and buyers rerouted **supplies** and secured alternative cargoes to avoid major shortages
- India may retain diversified sourcing to strengthen **energy security**

India's diversified sourcing strategy mitigated major disruptions in imports of LNG in April and May, despite a 17% dip in global supply, rating agency S&P Global said on Tuesday.

India is the world's fourth-largest buyer of LNG. Following disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, India increased purchase of LNG from the US, Oman, Nigeria, and Angola. As a result, India's LNG import in April and May was lower by only 5% and 2% YoY, respectively.

"India is expected to retain some of this diversified LNG sourcing considerations to mitigate future disruptions, potentially influencing its long-term sourcing strategies," said Johan Utama, Principal Research Analyst, S&P Global Energy.

Qatar and the UAE accounted for 59% of India's total LNG imports in 2025. Due to blockade in the Strait of Hormuz, the supplies from Qatar and the UAE have been badly hit since March.

The conflict severely constrained flows through the strait, with vessel movements plummeting to 10% of pre-conflict levels. Despite this, the energy system adapted through alternative routing via the Red Sea and expanded ship-to-ship transfers east of Hormuz, helping effective Middle East crude exports rebound to over 10 million bpd in June.

"The past months have underscored the adaptability of both producers and consumers. The industry's ability to reroute supply, optimise logistics, and secure alternative barrels has helped mitigate what could have been a far-more severe disruption to global energy markets," said Benjamin Tang, Director and Global Head of Liquid Bulk, Commodities at Sea, S&P Global Energy.

Utama said the MoU signed between the US and Iran to end the conflict is likely to have significant implications for global energy markets.

While the reopening of Hormuz is expected to facilitate the recovery of energy flows and strengthen market confidence, market participants continue to assess that market normalisation, and inventory replenishment will take time, S&P Global Energy said in a research note.

The rating agency noted that the effective closure of Hormuz resulted in a 15 million bpd cut in Gulf liquids production.

However, the price reaction has been surprisingly limited due to aggressive inventory and demand management globally, including sharp reductions in crude imports by China and Japan, and higher exports from the US.

Karnataka initiates consultations to strengthen defence manufacturing

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka Government on Tuesday initiated consultations under the national 'Atmanirbharta in Defence Manufacturing' programme, with stakeholders discussing proposals including a long-term aerospace and defence policy for the state, a dedicated Aerospace and Defence Facilitation Cell with a single-window mechanism, defence manufacturing clusters, a testing and certification network and measures to strengthen MSME and startup participation.

According to Dr Manjula, Secretary, Electronics, IT/BT and Science & Technology Department, the workshop engaged stakeholders across six areas: policy and governance, industrial infrastructure, testing and certification, MSME and startup participation, skill development and market access and defence exports.

Over 50 representatives from organisations including L&T, Mahindra Aerospace, AXISCADES and Digantara participated.

Refund delays, ITC disputes among key industry concerns in GST, shows Deloitte survey

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) system has achieved near-universal acceptance with over 99% of businesses reporting positive and neutral sentiment. However, a substantial number continue to seek greater clarity on tax interpretations, faster refunds, streamlined audits and improved working capital efficiency, as per an industry survey conducted by Deloitte.

The survey, conducted among 1,096 business leaders across eight industries, including MSMEs, underlined the need for focused reforms in the country's indirect tax system.

The key industry expectations include the need to resolve interpretational ambiguities (87%) by the GST Council, improve working capital through streamlined refunds and credit utilisation (67%), address input tax credit (ITC) disputes (57%) and implement a unified and harmonised audit process (61%), with greater audit consistency and compliance simplification through centralised and technology-led reforms.

"As GST enters its next phase of evolution, it is an opportune moment to address the top policy area of the survey, i.e., working capital concerns, such as expanding the scope of the inverted duty structure refund formula to include input services and capital goods," said Mahesh Jaising, Partner and Leader, Indirect Tax, Deloitte India.

"This is particularly in the backdrop of pro-consumer rate reductions in sectors such as pharma, food processing, EVs and certain consumer goods, where substantial credit accumulation is being experienced," he said.

Industry hopes for some of these recommendations to be considered in the next GST Council meeting and also hopes for regular GST Council meetings thereafter, such that topical issues are addressed soon/ periodically, Jaising added.

MSMEs increasingly favour quarterly GST return filing, with support rising from 12% in 2023 to 67% in 2026, Deloitte noted.

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590018, Karnataka

Ref.No: VTU/BGM/SAP/CW1/T-747,753/2026-27/1345 Date: 23-06-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Registrar, VTU, Belagavi, invites e-Tenders (Two Cover Systems) for the following Works through e-Procurement Tendering Mode.

Sl. No.	Name of the Tenders	Estimated Amount	EMD Amount
1	**T-747:** Tender for Refurbishment of Laboratories in Bosch-Rexroth Centre at VTU Mysuru - **(2nd Call)**	Rs. 84,07,547/-	Rs. 1,68,500/-
2	**T-753:** Tender for Printing and Supply of OMR Sheets to VTU Examination Section, Belagavi.	Rs. 31,15,200/-	Rs. 62,500/-

Last Date for Receipt of Tender on **07-07-2026 upto 2.30 PM.** Date of Opening of Tender: **08-07-2026 at 4.00 PM.** The details regarding participation in the e-Tendering can be accessed by logging to our VTU Website: **www.vtu.ac.in** and KPP Portal Website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Registrar

DIPR/Belagavi/485/Adverto/2026-27

PUBLIC NOTICE
(Under Section 130(1)(b) read with 130(2) of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016)

For the attention of the Creditors of Sri. B Radhakrishnan, Sri. R Sudarshan and Sri. R Srinivasan - Personal Guarantors to M/s. Southern Batteries Private Limited (SBPL) (U31404KA1996PTC019739)

RELEVANT PARTICULARS

1.	Name and Address of the Personal Guarantors	1. **Sri. B Radhakrishnan,** 41, Harmony Classic Orchard, Bengaluru - 560061. 2. **Sri. R Sudarshan,** 41, Harmony Classic Orchard, Bengaluru - 560061. 3. **Sri. R Srinivasan,** 41, Harmony Classic Orchard, Bengaluru - 560061.
2.	Details of the order & Bankruptcy Commencement date in respect of Debtor/ Personal Guarantors	1. Sri. B Radhakrishnan: CP (IB) No.22/BB/2026 on 09th April 2026* 2. Sri. R Sudarshan: CP (IB) No.23/BB/2026 on 09th April 2026* 3. Sri. R Srinivasan: CP (IB) No.24/BB/2026 on 09th April 2026*
3.	Name, registration number, email id and address of the Insolvency Professional acting as Bankruptcy Trustee (BT) for correspondence	**Ravindra Beleyur** IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P00189/2017-18/10368 No.428, 19th B Cross, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 011 Tele: +91 80 26540193 Email: ravi@beleyur.com Process Email: bt.pgs.southern.batteries@beleyur.com
4.	Last date for submission of claims	07th July 2026

Notice is hereby given that the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru has ordered the commencement of the Bankruptcy process against the Personal Guarantors to M/s. Southern Batteries Private Limited (SBPL) – Sri. B Radhakrishnan, Sri. R Sudarshan and Sri. R Srinivasan vide orders dated 09th April 2026. *(Copies of the orders were uploaded on11th June 2026 and received by Bankruptcy Trustee from the counsel of the financial creditor only on 22nd June 2026).

Creditors of the above Personal Guarantors are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 07th July 2026 at the address mentioned against entry No. 3.

Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties

Sd/-
Date: 23.06.2026 Ravindra Beleyur
Place: Bengaluru Reg. No. IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P00189/2017-18/10368

National Highways Authority of India
(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India)
Door No: 2-1273/1F, B.V.Reddy Colony, Chittoor-517001.
Ph.No:08572-357715,
E-mail: chittornhaipiu@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRT&H) has published Gazette Notification No. 2326(E) dated 07.05.2026 for the levy and collection of user fee at the respective Entry/Exit Toll Plazas. The user fee rates applicable for FY 2026-27 have been approved by the Competent Authority, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Regional Office, Vijayawada, vide letter dated 25.05.2026. Accordingly, **toll operations and collection of user fee shall commence with effect from 25.06.2026 at 08:00 Hrs** at the Baireddipalle Fee Plaza (TP-05) @ Km. 94.095 in the Bangalore-Chennai Expressway stretch from Km. 71.000 to Km. 96.000 (Bethamangala to Baireddipalli Section) in Kolar District, Karnataka State & Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh State under the jurisdiction of NHAI, PIU-Chittoor. The user fee rates for FY 2026-27 approved by the Competent Authority are as detailed below:

A. From TP-05 (Baireddipalle) To TP-01 (Hedigenabele):

Category	Fee for single journey (Rs.)	Fee for two one-way journeys within 24 hours (Rs.)	Fee for 50 single journeys in a months (Rs.)
Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	195	290	6465
LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	315	470	10440
Bus/Truck (Two Axles)	655	985	21875
Upto 3 Axle Vehicle	715	1075	23865
HCM or EME or MAV (4 to 6 Axles)	1030	1545	34305
Oversized Vehicles (7 or more Axles)	1255	1880	41765

B. From TP-05 (Baireddipalle) To TP-02 (Agrahara):

Category	Fee for single journey (Rs.)	Fee for two one-way journeys within 24 hours (Rs.)	Fee for 50 single journeys in a months (Rs.)
Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	145	215	4810
LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	235	350	7765
Bus/Truck (Two Axles)	490	730	16275
Upto 3 Axle Vehicle	535	800	17755
HCM or EME or MAV (4 to 6 Axles)	765	1150	25520
Oversized Vehicles (7 or more Axles)	930	1400	31070

C. From TP-05 (Baireddipalle) To TP-03 (Krishnarajpura):

Category	Fee for single journey (Rs.)	Fee for two one-way journeys within 24 hours (Rs.)	Fee for 50 single journeys in a months (Rs.)
Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	80	115	2610
LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	125	190	4215
Bus/Truck (Two Axles)	265	395	8830
Upto 3 Axle Vehicle	290	435	9630
HCM or EME or MAV (4 to 6 Axles)	415	625	13845
Oversized Vehicles (7 or more Axles)	505	760	16855

D. From TP-05 (Baireddipalle) To TP-04 (Sunderpalya):

Category	Fee for single journey (Rs.)	Fee for two one-way journeys within 24 hours (Rs.)	Fee for 50 single journeys in a months (Rs.)
Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	50	75	1655
LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	80	120	2675
Bus/Truck (Two Axles)	170	250	5605
Upto 3 Axle Vehicle	185	275	6115
HCM or EME or MAV (4 to 6 Axles)	265	395	8790
Oversized Vehicles (7 or more Axles)	320	480	10705

Project Director, NHAI, PIU-Chittoor

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

Can Kunal Shah take WhatsApp beyond messaging?

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

India's startup ecosystem lauded CRED Founder Kunal Shah's appointment as WhatsApp's global head. But the real test is whether he can push the platform past chat. Speaking to *DH*, several venture capitalists said Shah's years building a FinTech unicorn gave him deep insight into customer behaviour — a skill WhatsApp will need as it expands beyond messaging into payments and commerce.

On Monday, Meta announced that it will invest $900 million in CRED at a post-money valuation of $4.5 billion.

Born in Ahmedabad and raised in Mumbai, the 47-year-old entrepreneur and angel investor even did odd jobs, including deliveries, in his teens. In 2010, he co-founded FreeCharge, which was acquired by Snapdeal five years later. VCs recall him as someone who could anticipate consumer trends.

Kunal Shah

WhatsApp has over 3 billion users globally, and in India, according to World Population Review, it has crossed 850 million users. Meta's WhatsApp is also looking to strengthen its presence in India beyond messaging that includes paid subscriptions and payments.

Ankur Mittal, Co-founder, Inflection Point Ventures, said for WhatsApp, the biggest hurdle is enabling greater adoption of payments and commerce, though it has gained excellent traction and trust on India's most-widely used messaging platform. Additionally, expanding financial services requires dealing closely with regulators, which is exactly the terrain Shah already knows.

"He's spent years building FinTech, a space where you don't get to move fast and break things, you move fast and bring the regulator along with you. Shah's experience in building regulated FinTech gives him a strong foundation to balance innovation with compliance. However, leading a platform the size of WhatsApp will demand even greater execution and stakeholder management," Mittal said.

The biggest opportunity lies in combining WhatsApp's unmatched scale and daily user engagement with Shah's understanding of consumer financial behaviour. While CRED successfully encouraged users to adopt new financial habits through thoughtful product design, WhatsApp already has the trust and reach. If Shah can make payments, commerce, and AI-powered services feel like seamless extensions of everyday conversations, WhatsApp could evolve beyond messaging into one of India's most-influential digital commerce and financial services platforms, he added.

Harsh Kapadia, Founder, Atom XVII, said, "Shah's new role is monumental for the Indian early-stage ecosystem. It signals to the world the high quality of India's new-age ventures and the depth of entrepreneurial talent emerging from the country. His appointment is also a strong validation of India's growing influence in shaping global technology and product innovation."

By bringing in someone like Shah, who deeply understands the playbook of building, engaging and monetising large consumer ecosystems, Meta has significantly strengthened its monetisation ambitions. "His experience in scaling platforms, understanding consumer behaviour and creating sustainable revenue models will be invaluable as Meta looks to unlock new growth opportunities across its products and markets," he added.

Sensex, Nifty drop over 1%

MUMBAI, PTI: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty declined over 1% on Tuesday, following FII outflows and heavy selling in IT and metal shares, mirroring losses in global stocks.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped by 893.39 points, or 1.16%, to settle at 76,200.68. During the day, it plunged 1,011.56 points, or 1.31%, to 76,082.51. The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 278.80 points, or 1.16%, to end at 23,824.10.

Weak global trends, concerns over sustainability of the AI-driven rally, and profit-booking after recent gains dragged stocks lower, according to analysts.

Goyal, Greer begin talks on trade agreement

NEW DELHI, PTI: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer on Tuesday began bilateral talks here on issues related to the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement (BTA).

Greer is in New Delhi on an official visit for the trade pact talks.

"Warm welcome to @USTradeRep Amb Jamieson Greer, @USAmbIndia Amb Sergio Gor and their delegation to @DoC_GoI. Looking forward to productive discussions on the bilateral trade agreement between (India & US)," Goyal said in a social media post on X.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal and India's Chief Negotiator Darpan Jain, who is also Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce, are attending the meeting, which is underway at Vanijya Bhawan.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal (centre) meets US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer (right) and US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

The meeting followed chief negotiator-level discussions on the pact held in the national capital earlier this month (June 2-4). Agrawal on June 15 stated that the discussions between the two ministers are expected to be centred around giving final touches to the framework deal.

On June 17, US President Donald Trump said the two countries are "very close" on the finalisation of the trade agreement.

IN BRIEF

IAF beat SCB in opener

▸ Indian Air Force scored a 2-0 win over Southern Command Bengaluru in the opening match of the 7th edition of Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Memorial hockey tournament held at the Air Force Station Jalahalli in Bengaluru, reports DHNS.

EPL at EIRS from June 26

▸ The Embassy International Riding School (EIRS) in Bengaluru, is set to host the 16th edition of the Equestrian Premier League (EPL) from June 26, reports DHNS.

EPL will have show jumping and dressage across sub-junior, junior and senior categories.

MCHS hold nerve to edge Mandya

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mandya District boys staged a remarkable rally but their effort fell agonisingly short by one point as MCHS edged to a 63-62 win in an Upper Pool Super League match of the State Youth (U-16) championship for boys and girls here at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium Courts on Monday.

LOCAL BASKETBALL

Results (Upper Pool Super League) - Boys: Chikkamagalur: 68 (Bharath 23, Allan 19) bt Bangalore Sporting: 50 (Sai Kiran 23, Vihaan 16) HT: 38-33. PPC: 74 (Arjun 18, Jitesh 16) bt Dharwad District B: 46 (Preetham 12, Abrar 10) HT: 38-20. Beagles BC: 68 (Shourya 15, Raghav 13) bt Mysore District B: 23 (Prajit 10) HT 55-12. HBR BC: 57 (Rhythm Rai 24) bt Dharwad District A: 42 (Sanju 14, Adarsh 10) HT 31-17. MCHS: 63 (Shivank 18, Advaith 13) bt Mandya District: 62 (Yashwanth 27, Chinmay 21) HT: 29-17. Mysore District A: 76 (Rohan 21, Emanuel 15) bt Hebbal BC: 57 (Kunal 19, Yugha 17) HT: 36-17. MNK Rao Park BC: 56 (Dev Naidu 16, Ujwal 14) bt Chikkamagalur District: 36 (Bharath 13) Ht: 25-14. Southern Blues: 71 (Trinabh 19, Samarit 10) bt Dharwad District B 61 (Preetam 24) HT: 32-28. Young Orion's SC: 63 (Avyam 12, Ankit 10) bt Mysore District B: 28 (Prajit 8) HT 34-12. Vimanapura SC 53 (Daniel 20, Pranit 12) bt Dharwad District A: 28 (Sanju 9) HT: 26-17. IBBC: 55 (Tarun 21) bt Mandya District: 42 (Chinmay Gowda 26) HT: 23-23. AVBC: 59 (Ayaan Ali 23) bt Mysore District A: 43 (Sarthak 12, Emmanuel 11) HT: 38-22.
Girls: Mysore District A: 62 (Risha 10) bt Dharwad District A: 27 (Supriya 11) HT: 33-11. MCHS: 62 (Saanvi 16, Livdeep 10) bt Mysore District B: 38 (Lagna 14, Jasmine 10) HT: 29-19. Mounts Club: 79 (Inaya 19, Nikitha 12, Niya Nidheen 11) bt Davangere: 16 (Saanvi 8) HT: 50-5. DYES Vidyanagar: 61 (Vibha 26, Monika 17) bt Mandya District: 57 (Kusuma 13, Yashaswini 13) HT: 29-30. Appaiah BC: 33 (Tia Rohom 8) bt PPC: 27 (Samitha 11) HT 13-6. Vivek's SC: 40 (Linisha 17, Aarohi 10) bt Young Orion's SC: 13 (Mishika 10) HT: 34-5. MNK Rao Park BC: 41 (Srinidhi 10) bt Dharwad District A 33 (Goutami 9) HT: 18-4. Southern Blues: 48 (Diya 13) bt Mysore District B: 37 (Chaitra 9) HT: 29-19. Mandya District: 66 (Sadhana 17, Harshitha 16) bt Bangalore Vanguards: 61 (Suhanvi 13, Nia 10) HT: 32-29.

Gold Ride for main event

MYSURU SELECTIONS

Ramanathan-trained Gold Ride, to be ridden by Sah Farid Ansari, is fancied to win the SV Subramaniam Memorial Trophy, the feature event of the races on Wednesday. The first race starts at 1.30 pm.
1. The Heggadaddevanakote Plate - 1200M: Pilot Officer 1, Tejash 2, Mystical Eve 3.
2. The Alberetto Plate - 1600M: Carolina Springs 1, Davids Delight 2, Our Asset 3.
3. The Kapila Plate (Div II) - 1200M: Windborne 1, Perfect Heart 2, Secret Shadow 3.
4. The Goa Plate (Div II) - 1400M: Elsa 1, Romantic View 2, Nozomi 3.
5. The Kapila Plate (Div I) - 1200M: Habibti 1, Ladylion 2, Sheeba 3.
6. The SV Subramaniam Memorial Trophy - 1200M: Gold Ride 1, Ocean 2, Drisana 3.
7. The Ranibennur Plate - 1400M: Chief Admiral 1, Klimt 2, Time To Victory 3.
8. The Goa Plate (Div I) - 1400M: Cloudy Hills 1, Cloud Jumper 2, Kind D 3.
Day's Best: Windborne. **Jackpot:** 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. **Mini Jackpot:** 5, 6, 7, 8. **I treble:** 1, 2, 3. **II treble:** 3, 4, 5. **III treble:** 6, 7, 8.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Women's WC: England vs West Indies **(11 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

Maharaja T20: Coastal Kings Mangaluru vs Kalyani Bengaluru Blasters **(2:30 pm)**, Hubli Tigers vs Shivamogga Yodhas **(7 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV.**

FOOTBALL

FIFA World Cup: Colombia vs DR Congo **(7:30 am)**, Switzerland vs Canada **(12:30 am, Thursday)**, Bosnia vs Qatar **(12:30 am, Thursday)**, Morocco vs Haiti **(3:30 am, Thursday)**, Scotland vs Brazil **(3:30 am, Thursday)**, South Africa vs South Korea **(6:30 am, Thursday)**, Czechia vs Mexico **(6:30 am, Thursday)**. **LIVE on Unite8 Sports, Zee5.**

HOCKEY FIH PRO LEAGUE

Indians win a thriller

Harmanpreet and Co edge arch-rivals Pakistan 4-3 in pulsating clash

LONDON, PTI

India defeated Pakistan 4-3 in a pulsating FIH Pro League match here on Tuesday, extending their decade-long unbeaten streak against the arch-rivals in international hockey.

The victory lifted India to seventh in the standings and came in the first meeting between the two sides since the 2024 Asian Champions Trophy in China, where the Harmanpreet Singh-led side had prevailed 2-1.

Ahmad Nadeem gave Pakistan the lead in the eighth minute through a penalty corner before Abhishek (22nd) struck from a field effort to draw parity.

Nilakanta Sharma then gave India the lead converting a penalty corner in the 24th minute as the Harmanpreet Singh-led side went into the breather with a 2-1 lead.

India extended their lead in the 40th minute through a field goal from Sukhjeet Singh and then Rajinder Singh made it 4-1 from a penalty corner.

But Pakistan came back strongly in the final quarter, with Abu Mahmood (53rd) and Moin Shakeel (60th) scoring from penalty corners to reduce the margin but it was not enough.

India will next take on hosts England in the London leg of the Pro League here on Friday.

After a slow start in the opening quarter, India found their rhythm to secure their fourth win of the Pro League season.

The match began with both teams playing cautiously and trading early circle entries.

Pakistan earned the first breakthrough in the eighth minute when Nadeem capitalised on a penalty corner routine to make it 1-0.

India immediately responded with aggressive attacks but struggled to find the final pass in the third quarter.

In the final minute of the first quarter, India won three consecutive penalty corners, but Pakistan goalkeeper Ali Raza made a fine save to deny India skipper Harmanpreet Singh.

India turned up the heat with quick passing in the second quarter to find an equaliser. In the 22nd minute, Dilpreet Singh's powerful shot was padded away by Raza, but Abhishek quickly pounced on the rebound to make it 1-1.

Three minutes later, India won another penalty corner and Nilakanta reacted sharply to the rebound and smashed the ball through the goalkeeper's legs to put India ahead 2-1.

Raza stood tall for Pakistan later in the quarter, saving penalty corners from Jugraj Singh in the 28th minute and Harmanpreet a minute later to keep the score 2-1 at halftime in favour of India.

Pakistan increased their tempo in the third quarter, creating multiple circle entries, but the Indian backline held firm.

Defender Amit Rohidas showed great composure to break up a dangerous two-on-one counter-attack led by Pakistan's Nadeem.

India then extended their lead in the 40th minute when Abhishek set up Sukhjeet inside the circle, who produced a handsome finish to make it 3-1.

The final quarter was filled with late drama as Pakistan pushed hard to reduce the deficit.

After the Indian defence blocked back-to-back Pakistan penalty corners in the 51st minute, India launched a swift counter-attack to earn a penalty corner of their own in the 52nd minute.

In a clever routine, Harmanpreet acted as a decoy, allowing Rajinder to fire the ball past substitute goalkeeper Waqar to make it 4-1.

Pakistan fought back as captain Mahmood scored from a penalty corner flick through the legs of Suraj Karkera.

Harmanpreet Singh-led India registered a rusty 4-3 win to extend their decade-long unbeaten run against Pakistan in London on Tuesday. HI MEDIA

Big names gather with Asiad on mind

Unnathi, Prakruthi, Shivaji lead Karnataka's medal push

ADITYA K HALDER
BHUBANESWAR, DHNS

The elite names of Indian athletics -- barring Neeraj Chopra, Gurindervir Singh and Tejaswin Shankar -- have assembled in Bhubaneswar with a singular aim: breach the Asian Games qualification mark.

The five-day National Inter-State Championships serves as the final trials for those who haven't met participation criteria across national and state meets. Beyond qualification, it is also a battle for supremacy among India's 28 states and eight Union Territories. Yet, with the Asian Games looming -- a stage where India has traditionally thrived -- qualification marks remain the overriding focus.

Expectations have only heightened after the fireworks at the Commonwealth Games trials in Ranchi last month. National records fell at a remarkable rate, including three within a couple of hours on the penultimate day. Sprinters and field athletes alike -- Vishal TK in the 400m, Tejaswin Shankar in decathlon, Gurindervir in the 100m, and pole vaulters Dev Meena and Kuldeep Singh -- pushed their disciplines into new territory.

Even with many of those record-breakers in the fray, there is cautious optimism for another record spree. The conditions in Bhubaneswar are far from ideal. Temperatures are expected to hover around 35 degrees, and the oppressive humidity, even with intermittent monsoon showers forecast, could make peak performance difficult.

The mood is further tempered by the absence of India's fastest man, Gurindervir, who has opted out to focus on his CWG preparations. In his absence, the spotlight shifts to his Reliance Foundation teammate and former national record holder Animesh Kujur, who will be eager to capitalise on home conditions. He starts as a strong favourite in the sprints, including the men's 200m final on the opening day. The competition remains intense with Harjit Singh, who clocked a wind-assisted 10.17 earlier this month.

Karnataka's former national record holder Manikanta Hoblidhar could make a return after recovering from injury, though his participation remains uncertain.

Karnataka, in particular, arrive with a formidable 48-member squad, though they will miss in-form long jumper Lokesh Sathyanathan, who has been called back by Tarleton University in the United States.

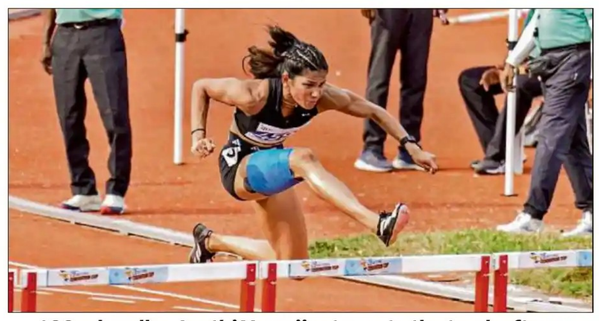
Despite that setback, the state boasts a strong contingent across disciplines with athletes such as Krishik M in the 110m hurdles, Prakruthi R Rao and Unnathi Aiyappa in the women's sprint, Yashas P in the 400m hurdles, and the experienced quarter-milers MR Poovamma and Vijayalakshmi will all be in contention for medals and qualification marks.

Distance runners Shailesh Kushwaha and Shivaji Parashuram further bolster their chances. Shivaji will be in action on the opening day, taking on 5000m favourite Gulveer Singh, a multiple national record holder.

The women's 200m also promises intrigue, with Karnataka's Unnathi and Prakruthi looking to carry forward their form from the state meet, where the former clocked a record 23.10 seconds; the fastest in India in five years.

Adding further interest to the 200m is the return of Jyothi Yarraji as the national record holder in the 100m hurdles is making her comeback after a long injury lay-off following an ACL tear.

Day 1 schedule: Men: 5000m (Final) 5:30 am; 100m Decathlon (100m) 6:30 am; 200m (Round 1) 7:10 am; Decathlon (long jump) 7:25 am; Decathlon (shot put) 08:30 am; Pole Vault (final) 4:30 pm; Decathlon (high jump) 4:40 pm; Decathlon (400m) 6:10 pm; 800m (Round 1) 6:20 pm; 200m (semifinal) 5:45 pm; 200m (final) 07:30 pm. **Women:** 200m (Round 1) 6:45 am; Hammer Throw (final) 5:00 pm; 200m (semifinal) 5:20 pm; Triple Jump (Final) 5:55 pm; 800m (Round 1) 6:50 pm; 200m (Final) 7:20 pm; 5000m (Final) 7:40 pm.



100m hurdler Jyothi Yarraji returns to the track after a long injury lay-off owing to a complete ACL tear. RFYS

New Zealand stay alive with 6-wicket win over Scotland

BRISTOL, AP

Defending champion New Zealand lived to fight another day at the Women's Twenty20 World Cup after Scotland was overcome by six wickets on Tuesday.

Reaching the semifinals was still a long shot; New Zealand must top unbeaten England next Saturday at The Oval and hope the West Indies drop points.

Izzy Sharp and Brooke Halliday pulled New Zealand out of 26/3 in a wretched powerplay with a partnership of 101 that wasn't broken until victory was only five runs away.

Sharp was the aggressor and out for a 43-ball 62, her career-best T20 score, and Halliday was unbeaten on 41 for New Zealand to reach 132/4 with 10 balls to spare.

"What a special knock from Sharp," New Zealand captain Melie Kerr said. "She has the potential to be one of New Zealand's best ever and the best in the world."

Scotland was eyeing a 150 total but was pulled back to 131-7 in the last six overs by the bowling of Sophie Devine, Nensi Patel, Bree Illing and Kerr.

Brooke Halliday

In the second game of the day, skipper Chamari Athapaththu's hundred fired Sri Lanka to a nine-wicket victory over Ireland at the Bristol County Ground, as they kept their qualification hopes alive.

Brief scores: Scotland: 131/7 in 20 overs (Darcey Carter 72, Sarah Bryce 25; Melie Kerr 3-17, Sophie Devine 2-19) lt to New Zealand: 132/4 in 18.2 overs (Izzy Sharp 62, Brooke Halliday 41; Kathryn Bryce 2-13, Rachel Slater 2-22). Ireland: 130/5 in 20 overs (Gaby Lewis 59, Alice Tector 28 n.o.) lt to Sri Lanka: 134/1 in 15.3 overs (Chamari Athapaththu 106 n.o.).

Suryansh replaces Nitish for UK tour

The promising Suryansh Shedge has replaced injured all-rounder Nitish Reddy in India's squads for the upcoming T20I series against Ireland and England, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Earlier, India were dealt a blow as Nitish was ruled out of the white-ball tour of UK with a quadriceps injury that he had sustained during the recent ODI series against Afghanistan.

"The men's selection committee has named Suryansh Shedge as a replacement for Nitish Kumar Reddy in India's squads for the upcoming T20I series against Ireland and England," the BCCI said in a statement.

Nitish reported left quadriceps discomfort after the third ODI against Afghanistan on June 20.

Tucker to lead Ireland in T20Is vs India

DUBLIN, PTI: Lorcan Tucker was on Monday named the Ireland captain ahead of the two T20Is against India to be played on June 26 and 28.

Ireland also gave maiden call ups to pacers Matthew Hollard and Jai Moondra for the two matches to be played at Belfast, as Ireland are without five preferred fast bowling options.

"Matthew Hollard and Jai Moondra have received their first call-ups to the senior Ireland Men's squad. Reuben Wilson is uncapped in T20I cricket – he made his Test debut last month against New Zealand," Cricket Ireland said.

Apart from the five injured fast bowlers, Ireland will also be without their former skipper Paul Stirling, who stepped down as captain after this year's T20 World Cup.

"My approach to the captaincy is to lead by example," Tucker said.

Squad: Lorcan Tucker (C & wk), Ross Adair, Ben Calitz, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Stephen Doheny (wk), Matthew Humphreys, Gavin Hoey, Matthew Hollard, Liam McCarthy, Jai Moondra, Harry Tector, Tim Tector, Reuben Wilson.

KKR, RR sound out to MI for potential Pandya trade

NEW DELHI, PTI: Hardik Pandya **(in pic)** is on his way out of Mumbai Indians and the five-time IPL winners have at least got two feelers for a potential trade -- one from Shah Rukh Khan co-owned Kolkata Knight Riders and the other from Rajasthan Royals.

There have been multiple discussions between the top management of KKR and the owners of Mumbai Indians over a swap, an IPL insider privy to the development told PTI on condition of anonymity.

Pandya's second coming to Mumbai Indians has been a tumultuous one with only one entry into the play-offs under his leadership.

"Ajinkya Rahane was always a stop-gap arrangement for KKR and he was always going to be released after this season. The KKR top brass had approached MI owners towards the end of last season but since Reliance's Annual AGM was round the corner, so at that time IPL trade wasn't the biggest priority.

"However, it has been learned that KKR has again approached MI top leadership and there has been a few rounds of discussion," the source informed.

It is a given that if Pandya goes to KKR either for an all-cash deal or a trade-off, the captaincy is there for the taking as Rinku Singh at this point doesn't look to be a suitable option.

However, the source couldn't confirm when asked whether MI wants an all-cash deal for the star India all-rounder or a trade-off. The IPL transfer rule states clearly that a player can't have any sort of discussion individually with any other franchise with regards to a trade.

The rule states that it is only a franchise to franchise discussion that can happen but it is also stated that without a player's consent, there can't be a trade. In case the player doesn't give consent, then he has to be released back to the auction pool.

The second offer that has come MI's way is learnt to be a trade off between Yashasvi Jaiswal and Pandya but one can't say with a lot of certainty whether talks have progressed to an advanced stage.

Bhavani appeals for reconsideration of suspension

NEW DELHI, PTI: Offering an unconditional apology for her conduct during the team event at the Asian Fencing Championships, India's leading fencer Bhavani Devi has appealed for reconsideration of the two-month suspension imposed on her.

Following the incident, Bhavani was shown a Black Card, resulting in a two-month suspension under the applicable disciplinary regulations.

"Recognising the seriousness of the matter, Bhavani Devi has submitted an unconditional apology and has conveyed her deep respect for the rules, officials, and values of the sport," a Fencing Association of India (FAI) media release stated.

"A request for reconsideration and reduction/removal of the suspension has been submitted to the world body (FIE)" the release added.

The appeal cites Bhavani's disciplinary record throughout her international career.

Osaka eases through, Venus shown the exit door

BAD HOMBURG (GERMANY), AFP: Five-time Wimbledon champion Venus Williams was knocked out in the first round of the Bad Homburg WTA grass court event on Monday but Japan's Naomi Osaka **(in pic)** breezed through.

Williams, 46, is due to play doubles with her sister Serena at Wimbledon, which starts in a week's time, and was also given a wildcard to enter the Bad Homburg singles.

She took her time to get going against qualifier Irina-Camelia Begu of Romania, losing the opening set 6-2 before battling back to take the second 6-4.

Williams led 5-3 in the decider and was two points from victory at one point but Begu dug in to force a tie-break, which she won 8-6.

Sixth seed Osaka, 28, had little trouble seeing off Pole Magdalena Frech 6-4, 6-1.

The first set was close until a rain-enforced break at 5-4, after which, the four-time Grand Slam champion lost only one more game.

Osaka has never won a grass court tournament, with her best result a semifinal at Nottingham in 2018.

'Never doped'

Former Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova insisted she "never doped" after an anti-doping watchdog had banned her from tennis for four years on Monday.

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) blames the 26-year-old Czech for failing to open the door to an anti-doping officer in December 2025.

NRAI honours Rana, Randhir

NEW DELHI, PTI: The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) on Tuesday announced that the India Open Competitions in July will be named in honour of legendary shooters Jaspal Rana and Raja Randhir Singh, who died recently, leaving the fraternity shocked.

Describing them as "two of the most influential figures in the history of Indian shooting and sports administration", the NRAI said one competition will now be known as the Jaspal Rana Memorial India Open Competition in Rifle/Pistol Events, while the other will be called the Raja Randhir Singh Memorial India Open Competition in Shotgun Events.

Veteran sports administrator Randhir died on May 27 at the age of 79 following age-related illnesses.

Chetan ton sinks Blasters

BENGALURU, DHNS

LR Chethan hammered a fiery 60-ball 106 to mastermind Mysore Warriors' maiden victory in the DACSS Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament in Mysuru on Tuesday night.

Warriors' medium pacer Arbind Kumar Rai then worked magic with the ball, claiming the first four of the five wickets and conceding 17 runs. The Blasters needed a miracle to bounce back from 33/5 in 6.1 overs, eventually folding up for 131 in 16 overs.

The undisputed hero the day was the 26-year-old attacking opener Chethan, who steered the Warriors to a daunting total of 203 with a flourishing knock containing nine fours and seven sixes.

The Mysore-lad was so dominant that he scored more than 50 per cent of his team's total with K P Karthikeya (65 retired hurt, 41 balls, 6 fours, 2 sixes) being the next best scorer.

LR Chetan

Chethan and Karthikeya helped the Warriors recover from 12/2 and batted with increasing confidence and calculated aggression. The duo added a match-winning 165 runs for the third wicket in just 85 balls.

Brief scores: Mysore Warriors: 203/5 in 20 overs (LR Chethan 106, KP Karthikeya 65) bt Kalyani Bengaluru Blasters: 133 all out in 16 overs (Samit Dravid 30, Praveen Dubey 36; Arbind Kumar Rai 4-17, Madhav Bajaj 2-23).

Mystics win

Gulbarga Mystics scored their maiden victory by trouncing Shivamogga Yodhas by 95 runs.

A turbo-charged batting display in the Powerplay during which the Mystics smashed 93 runs, and a solid all-round performance by Kranthi Kumar (31, 22b, 2/8) did the magic as they posted a commanding 232/8. Gautam Mishra (3/34) and Ronit More (2/7) then shone with the ball to dismissed Shivamogga to 137 in 19.4 overs.

Brief scores: Gulbarga Mystics: 232-8 (Lochan Gowda 47, Prakhar Chaturvedi 45, Macneil Noronha 26, Kranthi Kumar 31; Naveen MG 2-44, Bheem Rao Navale 2-31) bt Shivamogga Yodhas: 137 all out in 19.4 overs (Luvnith Sisodia 30; Gautam Mishra 3-34, Ronit More 2-12, Kranthi Kumar 2-7, Suhas Purushotham 2-19).

Shiva, Angon star in BPFC victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Shiva Charan and Khongembpumhel Angon netted a brace each as Bangalore Phantom FC trounced Hampinagar 6-0 in a Group 15 encounter of the BDFA C Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Tuesday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Results: BDFA C Division: Group 14: ECD FC: 2 (Soonil Ghinrey 55th, Deepan Tamang 57th) bt Universal FC: 0; Bentex FC: 3 (Alan George 10th, Abhinav B 48th, 52nd) drew with Bangalore Yellows FC: 3 (Kiran K 25th own goal, Shivakumar 41st, Mohammed Sufiyan 56th)
Group 15: Bangalore Phantom FC: 6 (Shiva Charan 8th, 23rd, HC Malsawmtluanga 13th, Khongembpumhel Angon 20th, 50th, Lumingtip Wanniang 39th) bt Hampinagar: 0; Muslim Heroes FC bt Crescent FC via walkover.
KSFA D Division: Amey FC: 2 (Shreyas Raghvendra 20th, Shiven Hang Subba 35th) bt Falcon FC: 1 (Sayyed Faisal Amjad 4th); Elite Soccer Sch: 5 (Annappa YR 5th, Jonah Maring 7th, 14th, Tam Tang Khoai Angelus Moring 20th, Luminlen 46th)

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

LEADING SCORERS AT WORLD CUP

18 **Lionel Messi** (ARG)

16 **Miroslav Klose** (GER)

Kylian Mbappe (FRA)

15 **Ronaldo** (BRA)

14 **Gerd Mueller** (GER)

13 **Just Fontaine** (FRA)

12 **Pele** (BRA)

11 **Jurgen Klinsmann** (GER)

Sandor Kocsis (HUN)

10
Gabriel Batistuta (ARG)
Harry Kane (ENG)
Helmut Rahn (GER)
Gary Lineker (ENG)
Teofilo Cubillas (PER)
Thomas Mueller (GER)
Grzegorz Lato (POL)

The legend of Messi keeps growing

Argentine becomes the leading scorer in WC history in 2-0 defeat of Austria

ARLINGTON (US), AFP

He knew what Lionel Messi was going to do and had a plan to stop it -- and then the Argentina captain struck twice anyway in becoming the leading scorer in World Cup history.

Austria coach Ralf Rangnick may not be all that fondly remembered by Manchester United fans, where he pitched up in 2021-2022.

But at 67 the German coach is vastly experienced and also widely admired in football.

Rangnick has revived the Austrian team since taking over in 2022, and they beat debutants Jordan 3-1 to launch their World Cup last week in North America.

Talking ahead of his side's group match on Monday against reigning champions Argentina in Texas, Rangnick spoke about the latest iteration of Messi, who turns 39 on Wednesday.

"Lionel Messi maybe doesn't put in the same legwork as in the past," said Rangnick.

"He likes to stay on the side, and sometimes he likes to stop in front of the goal, in the offside position.

"That doesn't mean that they have one man less, but they have one man less that works in the counter-pressing.

"But that makes him so dangerous, because he might be in a position, free in a position, and we need to be prepared for that.

"We shouldn't have too many transition moments, and not allow transition moments, and not allow him to be free to accept the ball."

That notion unravelled in front of a frenzied crowd of 70,000 dominated by Argentina fans decked out in light blue and white.

Messi, the best player of all time, pulled an early penalty wide to pass up the chance to move clear of Miroslav Klose for the most World Cup goals.

Messi said afterwards that he was "very angry" with himself and he twice came close after that to scoring, only for Austria captain David Alaba to twice deny him.

Argentina	Austria
2	0

And then came the big moment, Messi sweeping in on 38 minutes after being set up by Facundo Medina.

Just like Rangnick had warned, Messi had ambled into space and was all alone to score with a trademark swing of his left foot.

It was his 17th World Cup goal and 18 arrived when Messi pounced again in the fifth minute of injury time.

This time the veteran squeezed home as several defenders threw themselves desperately at the ball.

Messi, at his sixth World Cup, was still going strong in the 95th minute.

It took the maestro to five goals at this edition, having hit a hat-trick in a 3-0 win over Algeria.

That was Messi's first treble at a World Cup.

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni, Messi's team-mate at the 2006 World Cup, has built an ecosystem around Messi to allow his captain to do his thing.

That means letting others do the running around him.

Not that Messi is totally exempt from the dirty work.

"Today, when the team was struggling without possession, he put in the work," said Scaloni.

"You could see his commitment, that speaks volumes about him."

Renowned Spanish journalist Guillem Balague, who wrote an authoritative biography of Messi, said before the World Cup that this version of the player was "very different" to the one that burst onto the scene with Barcelona in the early 2000s.

"Messi has reinvented himself at least five times to evolve into the player he is now for Argentina and Inter Miami," Balague wrote in a column for the BBC.

"He has adapted so he can dominate and stay ahead of a game that has always been chasing him," he added.

He noted how Pablo Aimar, Messi's childhood idol, once said: "The last Messi is always the best Messi."

Argentina's Lionel Messi shoots past a maze of Austrian players to score his second goal in Arlington. AFP

Lionel Messi

Argentina fans wearing Lionel Messi and Diego Maradona masks in Buenos Aires celebrate during their match against Austria. REUTERS

Maradona, Messi exploits have fans in raptures

BUENOS AIRES, AFP

Argentinian football fans filling the bars in Buenos Aires on Monday were able to celebrate iconic World Cup moments by two vastly different characters -- Diego Maradona and Lionel Messi.

For the late tortured genius that was Maradona it was the 40th anniversary of his 'Hand of God' goal in the 1986 quarter-final with England, on his way to almost single-handedly winning the trophy for Argentina.

For the clean-cut Messi it was another record -- his double against Austria at the 2026 tournament on Monday that made him the all-time World Cup goal scorer with 18.

Maradona, despite his excesses off the pitch and his failed doping test in the 1994 World Cup, remains a hero to many.

It's fair to say controversy and Messi are not often mentioned in the same breath -- reverence for him is confined to his successes on the pitch.

"Maradona came from the working classes and brought a lot of happiness to these people who can only dream of certain pleasures others can afford," Fernando Rollan, 38, told AFP.

"Messi on the other hand belongs to another generation. But I love him!"

It is hard to miss images of Messi in Buenos Aires -- he adorns the iconic Obelisco de Buenos Aires and in the city of Neuquen, in the province of Patagonia, there is a 26-metre high statue of him.

The Argentine fans flocked to the bars and the fan zones took umbrage, just as they did in Maradona's golden age, with anything that might adversely affect their hero.

Haaland brews a double blend once again

EAST RUTHERFORD, AFP

Erling Haaland scored his second World Cup brace in a row as Norway beat Senegal 3-2 on Monday to punch their ticket to the last 32.

Norway substitute Marcus Holmgren Pedersen struck late in the first half in New Jersey before Haaland doubled the lead shortly after the break.

Ismaila Sarr cut the deficit for Senegal, only for Haaland to punish more slack defending as Norway moved through to the knockout rounds with a game to spare despite a late consolation from Sarr.

Manchester City forward Haaland now has four goals in two games at the tournament, hot on the heels of Lionel Messi's double earlier in the day which carried him to a record 18 World Cup goals. Not to be outdone, Kylian Mbappe scored another brace too as France beat Iraq 3-0.

Norway have lost only once in their last 18 matches and will take on France in a compelling battle for top spot in the group in Boston on Friday.

Senegal must beat Iraq, who are also without a point, in their final game to stand a chance of avoiding an early exit.

Led by the unstoppable Haaland, who increased his astonishing international goals tally to 59 in 52 games, Norway recorded back-to-back wins at the World Cup for the first time.

They added weight to the belief they can do serious damage at these finals with a dominant display against a Senegal side that paid heavily for their errors.

Norway quickly set the tone as Kristoffer Ajer's header forced Senegal goalkeeper Edouard Mendy into a terrific save with his legs at a corner, but they lost full-back Julian Ryerson to injury early on.

Norway	Senegal
3	2

Captain Martin Odegaard skied over an inviting cut-back from the right for Norway, as Nicolas Jackson looked Senegal's most dangerous threat.

Mendy again came to Senegal's rescue with a superb block to deny Odegaard after Haaland cushioned down Antonio Nusa's chipped cross into the box.

But Mendy allowed Pedersen's low drive to creep under him after a dreadful mistake from skipper Kalidou Koulibaly gave the ball to the replacement right-back on the edge of the box.

Haaland rolled against the post from a tight angle after Mendy got in a tangle, but he made amends three minutes into the second half as Norway sliced Senegal apart on the counter-attack.

Odegaard surged upfield and slid a pass through to Haaland, who buried an emphatic finish past Mendy to add to the two goals he scored in Norway's opening 4-1 victory over Iraq.

Senegal clawed their way back as Sarr showed great composure to poke home after tumbling to the ground following a clever flick into the area by Sadio Mane.

However, Koulibaly was at fault once more, failing to clear as Haaland steered a volley in off the crossbar from Patrick Berg's cross, delighting Norwegian fans who provided a colourful backdrop with their viral rowing chant. Mory Diaw came on for the injured Mendy in goal, but only a headed goalline clearance from Pathe Ciss prevented Oscar Bobb from netting Norway's fourth.

Erling Haaland scored his second consecutive brace in Norway's 3-2 defeat of Senegal on Monday at New Jersey Stadium. AP/PTI

Ronaldo first man to score at six different World Cups

HOUSTON, AFP: Cristiano Ronaldo became the first man to score in six different World Cup campaigns when he struck against Uzbekistan on Tuesday in Houston.

The 41-year-old Portugal skipper, under pressure to find the net after a barren run at major international tournaments, pounced from close range after just six minutes to create a piece of World Cup history.

It is testament to Ronaldo's longevity, the former Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus superstar having scored his first World Cup goal in 2006, against Iran.

Ronaldo faced flak after being largely anonymous in a disappointing 1-1 draw with the Democratic Republic of Congo. In his previous 10 games at major competitions coming into the Uzbekistan match, he had zero goals and one assist.

Going into the half-time break, Portugal opened up a 3-0 lead on the back of Ronaldo's double strike.

Cristiano Ronaldo. AFP

Subs do the comeback job for Algeria

SANTA CLARA (CALIFORNIA), REUTERS

Algeria stormed back to beat Jordan 2-1 and eliminate the World Cup debutants with a match to spare on Monday thanks to second-half goals from substitute Nadhir Benbouali and Amine Gouiri.

Algeria	Jordan
2	1

Benbouali's header cancelled out Nizar Al-Rashdan's first-half opener and Gouiri poked home in a goalmouth scramble eight minutes from time to revive Algeria's campaign after their opening 3-0 loss to Argentina.

The victory put Algeria level with Austria on three points in Group J, while ensuring defending champions Argentina will go through to the next round as group winners following their 2-0 win over the Austrians earlier on Monday.

Algeria coach Vladimir Petkovic put veteran attacker Riyad Mahrez in his starting 11 after benching him against Argentina, and he proved influential in breaking down a Jordan team that defended in numbers and were quick on the counterattack. Mahrez blew an early chance when he ran onto a sublime lofted pass from Hicham Boudaoui but lost the ball under his feet. He then latched onto another long ball from Boudaoui to be one-on-one with Yazeed Abu Laila but the Jordan goalkeeper got a hand to his chipped shot.

Jordan, who lost their opener 3-1 to Austria, went ahead in the 36th minute following clever link-up play and a touch of fortune when Algeria midfielder Ramiz Zerrouki turned the ball over in defence.

Mousa Al-Tamari's shot went sideways to Al-Rashdan, who drilled home first-time into the bottom right corner. Petkovic brought on Nabil Bentaleb and Benbouali at the break, and Algeria lifted their intensity.

Surrounded by Jordan defenders, Benbouali rose highest to meet a Mahrez corner and sent a glancing header bouncing into the corner of the net in the 69th minute.

For Algeria, it sets the stage for a grudge match against Austria, 44 years after the "Disgrace of Gijon".

Algeria's Amine Gouiri (centre) celebrates after scoring the winner against Jordan during their Group J game on Monday. REUTERS

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

The Mbappe storm sinks Iraq

Frenchman strikes a brace as Les Bleus punch knockout ticket

PHILADELPHIA, AFP

Kylian Mbappe said he was not paying too much attention to World Cup scoring records after getting two more goals on what he described as a draining night in Philadelphia, as France beat Iraq 3-0 in a game interrupted by a two-hour storm delay.

Mbappe's strikes came either side of half-time on his 100th appearance for France, and Ousmane Dembele the other goal in a game which was held up at half-time as torrential rain lashed the city.

France	Iraq
3	0

"It was a very long evening. In terms of staying switched on emotionally it was very difficult because we had to remain focused in the dressing room for almost two hours. That is very difficult and very demanding," said Mbappe.

"We stayed calm, I was joking with the players," France coach Didier Deschamps said.

"We stayed calm and relaxed. I was joking with the players. This is a security matter so I don't blame anyone for it.

"As soon as there is a risk, we adapt to local laws. These are unusual circumstances, and I hope it won't happen again."

A match which began at 5:00 pm local time didn't finish until close to 9:00 pm, but Mbappe's performance made it memorable for other reasons for the capacity crowd of over 68,000.

His brace came after a double in France's opening 3-1 win over Senegal, and he has seven goals in his last three World Cup matches, including his hat-trick in the 2022 final against Argentina.

Mbappe now has 16 World Cup goals, equalling the pre-tournament overall scoring record held by Germany's Miroslav Klose.

Lionel Messi, Mbappe's old teammate at Paris Saint-Germain, shot past that mark earlier Monday with two goals in Argentina's 2-0 win over Austria, establishing a new record of 18.

"Leo always scores goals and always will. So I am not looking at what he is doing, I'm just focusing on helping my team," said Mbappe.

He now has 60 goals for his country, having overtaken Olivier Giroud's previous French record of 57 against Senegal.

It was put to him that he could chase down the record for most goals scored in one World Cup -- that is held by France's Just Fontaine, who scored 13 in 1958 in Sweden.

"I'm not thinking about that just now. I think it is important to focus on the collective at the moment," said the Real Madrid superstar.

"I have always scored goals at the World Cup, but the priority is to be at our best as a team. You need to beat the best teams to win a World Cup so it's going to be very difficult."

Les Bleus are already through to the last 32 with two wins from two in Group I and next return to their Boston base, where they play Norway on Friday.

Norway beat Senegal 3-2 in New Jersey later on Monday, meaning they are also now through. France and Norway are level on six points each, but France's superior goal difference means they will finish top of Group I with a draw in that last match.

"The players and staff had to make a big effort. But we did the job and we are very pleased with how we played," said Mbappe.

Iraq now have to beat Senegal in Toronto on Friday to stand a chance of advancing as a best third-placed team.

The Lions of Mesopotamia have now played five World Cup matches across two tournaments, and lost them all.

"We stuck to our game plan and executed it pretty well, but France are good. We still have a chance, we are still in the competition, so we have to go back and correct our mistakes and then go out and give everything against Senegal," said defender Rebin Sulaka.

France's Kylian Mbappe (10) scores during their World Cup Group I clash against Iraq in Philadelphia on Monday. AP/PTI

Kylian Mbappe

Pulisic returns to training with US

Christian Pulisic returned to training with his US teammates on Monday after missing their most recent match of the World Cup with a calf injury, reports AP from Irvine.

Pulisic participated in warmups and ball drills during the 15 minutes of practice open to the media in Orange County.

The team gave no formal update on the status of the AC Milan midfielder, who has been limited to one dynamic half of play in the unbeaten Americans' home World Cup.

One killed, eight injured in WC watch party

A crowd surge among Jordanians gathered near Amman's Roman theatre to watch a World Cup match broadcast killed one fan and injured eight more on Tuesday, reports AFP from Amman.

During Jordan's 2-1 defeat to Algeria at the San Francisco Bay Area Stadium in Santa Clara, thousands of supporters had gathered at the historic arena in the capital to watch on giant screens. The open-air site can host around 6,000 people but, 15,000 turned up.

Weather gods decide to join football party

Fans at the 2026 World Cup in North America had been warned there was a possibility that games could be disrupted by bad weather, reports AFP from Philadelphia.

On Monday, that likelihood came true with a vengeance as lightning flashed across the sky above Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia and torrential rain soaked spectators at France's game against Iraq, forcing play to be halted for more than two hours.

Approximately 70,000 spectators at the stadium tried to make the best of the situation, but an urgent message flashed up on the scoreboards: "Please exit the open seating area and seek shelter in covered areas of the stadium."

Norwegian fans take party to palace

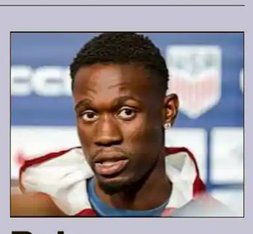
Wild overnight celebrations erupted across Norway as the men's national team secured qualification to the World Cup knockout stages and a tide of elated supporters headed to the palace of 89-year-old King Harald V to see if he would join their party, reports Reuters from Oslo.

Football fever engulfed Oslo, with the capital full of people celebrating the win, even though Tuesday is a normal workday. A large crowd marched towards the royal residence .

Belgium's Doku becomes father

Jeremy Doku has become a father, the Belgian football association announced Monday, days after the player's plans to leave the World Cup to be there for the birth sparked controversy, reports AFP from Brussels.

After consultations with medical staff, Doku was allowed to temporarily leave the Red Devils before last Sunday's game with Iran to join his wife they welcomed a baby boy.



Balogun chases Messi in Golden Boot race

United States striker Folarin Balogun has netted twice already this World Cup, and has set his sights on rivalling the elite group of "inevitable" goalscorers like Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe, reports AFP from Irvine.

Speaking to reporters, Balogun admitted he covets the Golden Boot -- awarded to the tournament's top scorer -- but is finding it hard to even keep track of all the goals.

Brazil vs Scotland, a rivalry steeped in history

MIAMI, AFP

From David Narey's toepoke to the opening game of France 98, World Cup clashes between Brazil and Scotland became a staple at the tournament towards the end of the last century and the teams renew acquaintances in a decisive final group game on Wednesday.

The Group C encounter in Miami will be the fifth meeting of the nations on the biggest stage, making it one of the most played fixtures in tournament history.

Not the most played outright, because Brazil have faced Sweden seven times including in the 1958 final and in the 1994 semifinals.

There have also been seven meetings of Argentina and Germany or West Germany, three of which have come in finals.

But the Selecao and the Scots faced off four times at World Cups between 1974 and 1998, all in the group stage -- after all, Scotland have never gone beyond the first round.

Narey's strike in Seville in 1982 remains an iconic World Cup moment, but it did not really have the desired effect as it simply stirred the Brazil of Socrates and Zico to life -- they came back to win 4-1.

In 1974 in West Germany, Kenny Dalglish's Scotland held the Brazil of Jairzinho and Rivellino to a goalless draw, and were ultimately eliminated on goal difference.

A late Mueller goal gave the Brazilians a 1-0 victory in Turin at Italia 90, and in 1998 Scotland prevented Ronaldo, Rivaldo and Bebeto from scoring only for Tom Boyd's own goal to decide the contest 2-1 in favour of the World Cup holders.

So can Scotland upset the odds and finally beat the Brazilians at the World Cup?

"Brazil have got an amazing history and we obviously want to disrupt that on Wednesday," said defender Jack Hendry, whose namesake Colin captained Scotland in that 1998 game.

Scotland are hoping to make history by qualifying for the knockout phase for the first time, after starting their campaign with a 1-0 win over Haiti in Boston. That was followed by a 1-0 defeat against Morocco, but a draw here will almost certainly take them through as one of the eight best third-placed sides.

Brazil's Neymar (left) and Vinicius Junior during a training session ahead of their game against Scotland on Wednesday. REUTERS

Confident Morocco eye top spot

ATLANTAM REUTERS

Morocco will be chasing not only victory but also goals against already-eliminated Haiti in Atlanta on Wednesday, eager to finish top of their World Cup group ahead of Brazil.

It would be a statement success for the North Africans, who have four points from their opening two Group C games and made an immediate impression when they had Brazil on the back foot in their drawn first match at the tournament.

Morocco, who then beat Scotland in Boston on Friday, have picked up where they left off from the last World Cup in Qatar, where they became the first African and Arab country to reach the semifinals.

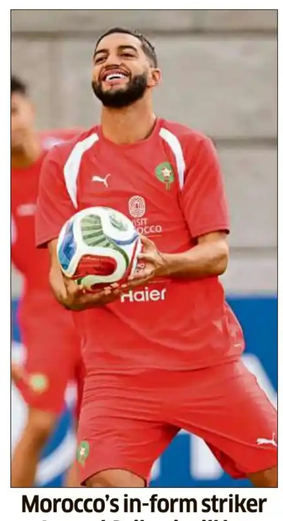
Brazil will be playing Scotland at the same time in Miami, and if both the five-time world champions and Morocco win their last group games, then top place in Group C will be decided on goal difference.

A 3-0 win for the Brazilians against Haiti in Philadelphia on Friday gives them a better goal difference than Morocco, whose coach Mohamed Ouahbi said the Caribbean team would pose a difficult challenge despite their early exit.

"That's the beauty of the World Cup, all the different styles of teams you go up against and have to deal with," he said.

But if they want to usurp Brazil and take top place, Morocco will have to be on the all-out attack.

The Group C winner takes on the runners-up in Group F, and the second-place finisher in Group C is up against the top side in Group F. A meeting with the Netherlands would have added resonance for the Moroccans, who have a large immigrant community in the country and three Dutch-born players in their squad.



Morocco's in-form striker Ismael Saibari will be eyeing another strong show when they take on Haiti on Wednesday. AFP

Colombia wary of determined Congo

GUADALAJARA (MEXICO), REUTERS: Colombia will look to build on a winning start to their World Cup campaign when they face DR Congo on Tuesday, with Nestor Lorenzo's side wary of an opponent who frustrated Portugal in their opener.

The South Americans began Group K with a 3-1 victory over Uzbekistan, though the scoreline masked a difficult second half in which their opponents exposed vulnerabilities that they will be keen to address.

A win would secure Colombia a place in the Round of 32 and could be enough to seal top spot in the group if Portugal fail to beat Uzbekistan.

The pressure will again fall on Bayern Munich forward Luis Diaz, who delivered a goal and an assist against Uzbekistan and was named player of the match after spearheading Colombia's attack.

Lorenzo will also hope for a greater influence from captain James Rodriguez, who played a quieter role in the opening victory as Colombia often relied on Diaz's pace and direct running to break down their opponents.

DR Congo arrive with confidence after earning a surprise 1-1 draw against Portugal in their first World Cup match for more than half a century, having last appeared at the tournament as Zaire in 1974.

Yoane Wissa scored the country's first World Cup goal, while coach Sebastien Desabre's side impressed with their defensive discipline and ability to launch quick counter-attacks against one of the tournament favourites.

Colombia's ace midfielder James Rodriguez. AFP

On Wednesday

Colombia vs **DR Congo** (07:30 am)

On Thursday

Switzerland vs **Canada** (12:30 am)
B&H vs **Qatar** (12:30 am)
Scotland vs **Brazil** (3:30 am)
Morocco vs **Haiti** (3:30 am)
Czech Republic vs **Mexico** (06:30 am)
South Africa vs **South Korea** (06:30 am)

All timings in IST

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